

G. Eric Skipper, Ph.D.



Presidential Search Committee, Limestone University

Dr. James Prevost, Chair, Presidential Search Committee

January 31, 2024

Dear Search Committee,

With enthusiasm I submit materials in application for the Presidency at Limestone University. Limestone is a distinctive institution with tremendous potential. The University's many strengths—including the diversity of its academic programs, its strong foundation in the liberal arts, and a robust athletics profile—吸引 me to apply. Given the uncertainties surrounding higher education today, universities need leaders who are adept in many areas to achieve their full potential. My spirit of innovation and my enthusiasm for collaboration have enabled me to lead many successful endeavors. Early in my tenure as provost, we built an entrepreneurial Academic Master Plan that has been foundational to our success. Mapped to our Strategic Plan, it laid the groundwork for building relevant new academic programs; quadrupling research funding; increasing donor and legislative funding to support student scholarships, research, programs, and infrastructure; garnering unprecedented national and regional awards; establishing a residential Honors program; revitalizing our historic Beaufort campus, opening a \$25 million Hospitality campus on Hilton Head Island, producing a nationally syndicated PBS series; initiating a digital marketing campaign to highlight the institutions' strengths and accolades; and other accomplishments. Having served as chair of our NCAA Advisory Committee during our transition from NAIA to NCAA Division II, I value the sense of community and life skills that intercollegiate athletics afford. By serving on state and system-wide boards and committees, I have garnered the breadth of perspective to enhance my understanding of higher education at the macro and state levels. Periodically, I write op-ed pieces for national and regional publications regarding our institution or higher education topics. This is a practice I would continue at Limestone.

Although I work at a public university, I understand the challenges and opportunities facing any institution that is largely tuition revenue dependent. In South Carolina, only 10% of our operating budget comes from state allocations. This makes our fiscal accountability and prudence incredibly important, and I would bring a similar expectation of operational excellence to Limestone. I believe my leadership experiences at the University of North Georgia (UNG) and currently at the University of South Carolina Beaufort (USCB) have prepared me well to be your President.

With this letter I aim to bring clarity to my leadership style and how my experiences have shaped my candidacy. I align my comments with the Essential Duties and Responsibilities outlined in the Presidential Search Position Description.

Developing and implementing a strategic vision.

Developing and implementing a strategic vision will require the enthusiastic support of the next president. Prior to leading the development and implementation of USCB's strategic plan, I led the implementation of UNG's strategic plan across five campuses enrolling 18,000 students. These count among my most rewarding accomplishments. Now that we have completed the close-out plan for the USCB Strategic Plan 2023, I stand in amazement at all that we have achieved. We have grown enrollment, added innovative academic programs, improved retention and completion rates, increased the diversity of our faculty, and exponentially increased the number of students participating in undergraduate research, internships, and study abroad. These outcomes, in a flywheel effect, have spawned other accomplishment, including dramatic increases in nationally competitive scholarships, being named a Top Fulbright Producing Institution, exponential increases in external funding, and a significant increase in major gifts. As Limestone's president, I would ensure that we align our budget with our strategic priorities, as we have done at USCB.

My time at both USCB and UNG coincided with periods of significant growth in student enrollment. Institutions that can focus on areas of strength while adapting to external influences will attract more students and have greater impact on regional economies. My op-ed piece [The Plight and Promise of Regional Colleges and Universities](#) advocates playing to unique institutional strengths, diversifying revenue streams, and leveraging partnerships. As drivers of innovation and opportunity, universities must engage previously untapped and underserved markets, connecting with new populations of diverse learners and empowering them to contribute meaningfully to a society greatly in need of ethical, action-oriented leaders. I believe that Limestone University has great potential in this regard. I would look forward to working with the staff, faculty, and Trustees to execute an enrollment plan that elevates the institution to a premier stature among its peers.

Top-quality academic programs.

High quality academic programs will be critical to Limestone's reputation and its future. This is an area in which I have extensive experience and can contribute immediately. In our digital age of accelerating change, universities must be drivers of innovation. One of the highlights of my job has been supporting our faculty in the development of forward-looking programs and initiatives.

- **Academic Programs:** The university must facilitate the development of a high-quality curriculum. At USCB, we have developed multiple new innovative programs. I am particularly proud of those that have resulted from our Academic Program Planning process, including new programs in cybersecurity, marine biology, innovation and entrepreneurship, and medical and health humanities, as well as new graduate programs in computational science and literacy.
- **International:** During my time as provost at USCB, we have made global learning a priority. Our efforts have led to a 400% increase in study abroad participation, twice being named a [Fulbright Top Producing Institution](#), being one of six institutions nationally to receive the French Embassy 2021-2022 [Transatlantic Mobility Program](#) grant, and, most recently, receiving the 2023 [AASCU Excellence & Innovation Award for International Education](#). We have formalized partnerships with universities in the Netherlands, India, France, Poland, and the Bahamas.
- **Honors:** With a handful of dedicated faculty, I played a leading role in developing [Beaufort College Honors](#) (BCH), a residential community of cohort-based learning that helped to revitalize our historic Beaufort campus. Since our first BCH cohort started in 2018, we have experienced dramatic increases in national fellowships, including Fulbright, NIH PREP, Washington Semester Program, SULI Research Program, and REU's. While serving as Dean of Honors at UNG, I created the Office of Nationally Competitive Scholarships, which has

become a national leader in producing Fulbright, Goldwater, Boren, Gilman, NSF, and Critical Languages scholars.

- **Interdisciplinary:** In response to our USCB [Academic Master Plan](#)'s call to create "interdisciplinary partnerships to solve 21st century problems in our own backyard," we began prioritizing interdisciplinary projects in our internal grants process. This approach, begun in 2018, has spawned many new partnerships between faculty attempting to address regional challenges, and has contributed to exponential increases externally sponsored funding. In 2021, we hosted our first USCB Interdisciplinary Studies Conference.

A financially secure future.

Having led strategic planning initiatives at two universities, I understand the imperative of aligning resources with the institutional mission. Achieving a balance between fiscal responsibility and a spirit of perpetual innovation is critical; a bold vision for the future must be balanced with responsible stewardship. During my tenure at USCB, our commitment to financial prudence and forward-thinking strategies has yielded positive results. Enrollment growth is key to sustainability, and at USCB, we have increased both enrollment and retention. My office assists in our digital marketing efforts, which include semesterly email blasts to stakeholder groups and peer institutions highlighting our accomplishments.

Limestone University must have the resources to invest in the people, programs, and services that support an exemplary public liberal arts education. At USCB, in addition to increased research funding, we have secured unprecedented levels of funding from state, federal, corporate, and private donors. This infusion of resources has propelled the university's growth across various domains, including academics, athletics, and facilities. In an era of tightened purse strings and shifting demographics, institutions must diversify revenue streams. This is an area in which I demonstrate strength and vision. In addition to increasing revenue sources, we have demonstrated fiscal responsibility. Along with other measures, and in collaboration with faculty and staff, we have achieved \$1 million in recurring cost-savings through strategic reorganization.

Student success and the value of the liberal arts.

As a liberal arts institution, Limestone University is positioned ideally to prepare students for the challenges and opportunities of an increasingly digitized society and economy. The new president must be able to articulate and promote Limestone University's distinctive qualities with conviction. My *Times Higher Education* piece [The Liberal Arts Can Counteract Polarisation – But There Are Caveats](#) touts the importance of the liberal arts in an age of accelerated digitization and artificial intelligence. At USCB, we have charted a bold path by putting interdisciplinarity at the fore of our teaching and research efforts, a move that has generated unprecedented externally sponsored funding, as well as numerous faculty and student accolades.

I have great personal conviction about universities' ability to solve complex humanitarian problems and enhance quality of life. At USCB we have made it a priority to align such efforts with our student success goals by bringing students along in the process. We adopted as our Quality Enhancement Plan "Students Connected," an experiential and community-based learning framework that informs our teaching and learning. The work is inspired by our Academic Master Plan, which states that we will "measure our success by outcomes in the community—health, economic, educational, environmental, etc." My *University Business* piece [Why Engaging Students in Problem Solving Is Needed Now](#) outlines how USCB mobilizes students' inquisitiveness and desire to effect change.

Strength in athletics.

Athletics will be critical to enrollment and to strengthening the university's profile. As Chair of the NCAA Advisory Committee at USCB, I am pleased to see that the university takes great pride in the strength and diversity of Saints athletics programs. I have experience in all facets of NCAA athletics, including finances and compliance. Strong sports teams can be a rallying point for enrollment, campus culture, community spirit, and fundraising. As president, I would work with the athletic director to ensure competitiveness and provide through compliance with rules, a focus on academics first, and a positive strategic direction for all sports.

Inclusivity enriched by a global perspective.

A university is made a richer and healthier place when the entire community can work, serve, and learn collaboratively. I admire Limestone University's commitment to cultivating a diverse and inclusive community. At USCB, our DEI efforts are woven into our strategic plan and engrained in our campus identity. This intentionality has yielded tangible outcomes, with a ten percent increase in underrepresented minorities securing full-time faculty positions. In Academic Affairs, we have increased the number of females in leadership roles from 38% to 71%. Notably, our focus on DEI has contributed to a substantial upswing in the number of students securing nationally competitive scholarships and internships. Over half of these achievements are attributed to minority students, a testament to our commitment to fostering diverse excellence. My personal efforts include co-chairing [USCB's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#) efforts. In anticipation of the 2022 South Carolina legislative session, I authored an op-ed piece in support of the state's [DACA recipients](#).

Like Limestone, we have stressed global education during recent years. As a culmination of our efforts, USCB was awarded the 2023 [AASCU Excellence & Innovation Award for International Education](#). During my time as provost, we have quadrupled the number of students participating in study abroad. We were twice named a Fulbright Top Producing Institution, and were one of six institutions nationally to receive the French Embassy 2021-2022 [Transatlantic Mobility Program](#) grant. We have formalized partnerships with universities in the Netherlands, India, France, Poland, and the Bahamas.

Fostering a successful leadership team and investing in people.

The future of Limestone University will be defined by the experiences of its students, faculty, and staff. As a provost, and previously as a vice president and dean, I have had the pleasure of investing in people in many ways. This includes traditional means such as faculty development funds, as well as specialized funding programs to support interdisciplinary research, teaching and learning, leadership development, and Fulbright support. I support faculty and staff development through CCAS, the Chronicle's strategic leadership program, AASCU, and ACE. I have successfully nominated faculty for training at the Wharton Fellows Program, USC's Amy V. Cockcroft Leadership Fellows, and the USC System Leadership Fellows.

I enjoy a strong working relationship with faculty, staff, and leaders across campus. I believe in the adage, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." Our faculty continue to impress me in their creativity and ingenuity; providing them with the resources they need is one of the most rewarding parts of my role as provost. At my current institution, our trajectory of progress and achievement has required buy-in from many stakeholders. Such buy-in is facilitated by a commitment to data-driven decision-making. I have worked with our Faculty Senate, Staff Council, cabinet-level leadership, and student organizations on the creation of new academic programs,

organizational realignment, facilities upgrades, library master planning, and a “living” strategic plan which we continue to implement.

External relationships and partnerships.

The next president must build upon a culture of innovation to attract partners and new student populations. The next president must champion the College’s value proposition before diverse audiences. In my role as provost, I enjoy telling the story of the University and interact with the public frequently. I have assembled teams for the pursuit of federal grants, federal and state appropriations, and philanthropic gifts, many of them aligned with the activities and planning of the academic mission. This year alone we have obtained funding for [shared Nursing simulation facilities](#) with Beaufort Memorial Hospital, research on the pristine barrier island [Pritchards Island](#), and transforming space in an old school building into a state-of-the-art [Cybersecurity Lab](#). I have served on numerous boards, including Chambers of Commerce, the Rotary Club, the South Carolina Department of Commerce, and the Woxsen University (India) School of Arts & Design. Experience working with statewide and System boards includes the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, the USC Board of Trustees, the Beaufort-Jasper Higher Education Commission, and the USCB Education Foundation. I frequently give presentations at civic groups and other organizations and serve as a founding board member of the [South Coast Cyber Center](#).

As president, I would work closely with the Limestone University Foundation in executing its development efforts and would commit personal time to fundraising and building relationships. At USCB, we have increased philanthropic gifts substantially, in large part due to the vision laid out in our Academic Master Plan. **I have stewarded major gifts, including a \$1 million memorial scholarship fund and an \$800,000 estate gift.** I raised the funds to establish USCB’s [first interdisciplinary makerspace](#). I have built multiple advisory boards for development during my career, and work closely with our advancement team on outreach and development, including marketing and communication strategies.

My unique qualifications for the Limestone University Presidency.

Preparation for the presidency is not just about having led at a high level but having led successfully. I am proud that we have turned ideals into action on so many fronts during my time at USCB and have elevated the institutions’ profile dramatically. I am a connector and a convener and understand the benefits that come from the power of relationships. The Presidential Position Description calls for an innovative, collaborative, visionary leader. It is critical that the leader also encourage innovation and creativity among others. My references will attest to my skills as a doer, an eloquent listener, and someone who is not afraid to challenge the status quo. These are among the qualities I would bring to Limestone University as your President.

I am as excited as you are about Limestone University’s future, and I welcome to the opportunity to discuss the position further. Good luck with your search.


Sincerely,



G. Eric Skipper, Ph.D.
Provost, University of South Carolina Beaufort

G. Eric Skipper, Ph.D.

Office of the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
University of South Carolina Beaufort
Hargray Building
One University Boulevard
Bluffton, SC 20909



Education

Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida. Ph.D. in Spanish Literature, 2000.

Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia. B.S. in Management, 1993.

Professional Education

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. Organizational Design Certificate, Spring 2023.

University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate, Spring 2021.

University System of Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia. Graduate, Executive Leadership Institute, 2011.

Administrative Positions

University of South Carolina Beaufort

2016–

Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, July 2016-present

Lead Academic Affairs at the University of South Carolina Beaufort, a public comprehensive university of 2,122 students served by 170 faculty members.

Administrative oversight of all academic units and programs as well as library, grants, research, eLearning, Center for Teaching & Learning, Institutional Effectiveness & Research, centers and institutes, Beaufort College Honors, and two branch campuses. Manage all aspects of Academic Affairs budgets.

Oversaw the development and implementation of the USCB Strategic Plan 2023 and the USCB Academic Master Plan, which have led to exponential increases in experiential learning (study abroad, internships, undergraduate research, and community-based learning); quadrupled sponsored external funding including grants from DOD, NSF, NEH, USDA, HRSA, and ED; first-time student awardees of Fulbright, NIH PREP, Nat'l. Hispanic Health Foundation, McNair, SULI, and other nationally competitive awards; named a Fulbright Top Producing Institution in 2019-20 and 2020-21; the student co-produced show By The River premiering in April 2022 as a PBS national series; securing a \$1.3 million DOD grant for the development of private-public cybersecurity partnerships; securing a \$1 million federal planning grant for developing maritime cybersecurity ecosystem; implementation of honors education, a Center for Teaching & Learning, USCB's first interdisciplinary makerspace, an Office for Academic Innovation, and an Innovation Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Waterways; revitalization of the historic Beaufort campus; academic programming for the new \$25 million Hospitality Management campus located on Hilton Head Island; and strategic development of academic programs.

Engage in fundraising and procurement of major gifts.

University of North Georgia

2013 – 2016

Vice President, University Affairs, May 2015-July 2016 (Interim, May 2015-April 2016)

Led multiple campuses at a public comprehensive university and one of six federally designated senior military colleges, serving more than 18,000 students. Responsible for coordinating operations and community outreach across four out of five campuses—Gainesville, Oconee, Cumming and Blue Ridge—serving 11,000 students. Served as senior administrator for Continuing Education, Economic Development, and Community Engagement. Oversaw implementation of the UNG Strategic Plan, 2014-2019.

CEO, Oconee Campus, 2013-2016

Provided administrative leadership and coordination of campus priorities and goals with the UNG administration, faculty and staff. Responsibilities include oversight of budget, strategic planning, external relations, facilities and grounds, fundraising, and the campus academic master planning process. Created a Community Advisory Council. Established the annual Oconeefest fundraising event. Led planning for significant enhancement of facilities.

Dean, Honors and Graduate Studies, 2013-2015

Provided vision and strategic direction for UNG's Honors Program and graduate programs. Created Honors Advisory Board and initiated the program's first successful fundraising campaign. Instituted the Office of Nationally Competitive Scholarships, which has gone on to national prominence as a Top Producing Fulbright Institution and an annual producer of Goldwater, Boren, Gillman, NSF, and Critical Languages scholars. Aligned administrative policies across graduate programs, and promoted research and advanced studies as a means to improve

quality of life and economic development in the region.

Gainesville State College*

2005 – 2012

Interim Dean, School of Humanities and Fine Arts, 2011-2013

Responsible for faculty, students, staff, academic planning, finances and facilities of the School, with 75 full-time and 100 part-time faculty. Supervised reorganization of Fine Arts into discrete departments, implementation of policies providing School-wide infrastructure, enhancements to advising and registration functions, organization of School-wide retreats, and addition of instrumental and choral production at commencement. Departments included English, Modern Languages, Theatre, Music, Visual Arts, and Communication, Media Studies & Journalism.

Interim Assistant Vice President, Academic Enrichment, 2010-2011

Responsible for units critical to student success and support: English as a Second Language, Learning Support, Supplemental Instruction, Tutoring Services, and First Year Experience.

Coordinator, Foreign Languages, 2008-2010

Responsible for curriculum, programs, language lab, and supervision of faculty and staff. Aligned curricula with American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) standards. Added Chinese, Arabic and Italian languages.

*Consolidated with North Georgia College and State University in 2013 to form University of North Georgia.

Faculty Appointments

University of South Carolina Beaufort, Professor of Spanish, 2016-

University of North Georgia, Professor, 2013-2016

Gainesville State College, Professor, 2009-2013; Associate Professor 2005-2009

Augusta State University, Assistant Professor, 2004-2005; Instructor, 2001-2004

Gordon College, Assistant Professor, 1999-2001

Publications

Book Publication

Skipper, E., editor. (2010). *A Recipe for Discourse: Perspectives on Like Water for Chocolate*. Atlanta: Rodopi Press, 2010.

- This edited volume provides diverse perspectives on Laura Esquivel's international best-selling novel, including themes related to gastronomy, superstition, mythology, folklore, the Mexican Revolution, magical realism, female identity, alteration, and matriarchy/patriarchy.

Higher Education Perspectives Publications

Skipper, E. (2023). Record External Funding at USCB Elevates Students and Region. *The Bluffton Sun*. <www.blufftonsun.com> 17 July 2023. (Also appeared in *The Island News*.)

Skipper, E. (2022). Rethinking the Optional Attendance Policy. *Inside Higher Ed*. <<https://www.insidehighered.com/>> 14 November 2022.

Skipper, E. (2022). USCB Tripled External Funding in 2021. *The Bluffton Sun*. <www.blufftonsun.com> 28 February 2022. (Also appeared in *The Island News*.)

Skipper, E. (2022). The Liberal Arts Can Counteract Polarization – But There Are Caveats. *Times Higher Education*. <www.timeshighereducation.com> 12 January 2022.

Skipper, E. (2022). South Carolina Economy Can Benefit from DACA Bills. *The State*. <www.thestate.com> 3 January 2022. (Versions also appeared in *The Bluffton Sun/ The Hilton Head Sun* and *The Island Packet*.)

Skipper, E. (2021). The Plight and Promise of Regional Colleges and Universities. *Inside Higher Ed*. <<https://www.insidehighered.com/>> 24 May 2021.

Skipper, E. (2020). Why Engaging Students in Problem Solving Is Needed Now. *University Business*. <<https://universitybusiness.com/>> 14 May 2020.

Skipper, E. (2020). The Problem-Solving University. *The Bluffton Sun* and *The Hilton Head Sun*. <www.blufftonsun.com> 7 January 2020.

Skipper, E. (2019). Experiential Learning at USCB Benefits Students, Community. *The Island Packet* and *The Beaufort Gazette*. <www.islandpacket.com> 18 July 2019.

Academic Discipline Publications

Skipper, E. (2010). The Mexican Revolution as a Backdrop for Esquivel's *Como agua para chocolate*. *A Recipe for Discourse: Perspectives on Like Water for Chocolate*. Edited by Eric Skipper. Atlanta: Rodopi.

Skipper, E. (2009). Laura Esquivel. *The Literary Encyclopedia*. <<http://www.litencyc.com>>

- Skipper, E. (2009). Like Water for Chocolate. *The Literary Encyclopedia*. <<http://www.litencyc.com>>
- Skipper, E. (2009). Conover's *Coyotes: A Continuation of Steinbeck's Migrant Worker Legacy. The Grapes of Wrath: A Reconsideration*. Atlanta: Rodopi Press.
- Skipper, E. (2007). Conover's *Coyotes: A Continuation of Steinbeck's Migrant Worker Legacy. The Steinbeck Review* 4.2: 31-40.
- Skipper, E. (2006). 33 entries. *A John Steinbeck Encyclopedia*. Edited by Brian Railsback and Michael J. Meyer. Westport, CT: Greenwood.
- Skipper, E. (2006). Rev. of *A Catalog of John Steinbeck Material in the Ball State University Libraries*. Edited by John B. Straw. *The Steinbeck Review* 3.1: 135-137.
- Skipper, E. (2005). Rev. of *John Steinbeck: A Centennial Tribute*. Edited by Mashkoo Ali Syed. *The Steinbeck Review* 2.1 (Fall 2005): 127-130.
- Skipper, E. (2004). Death in the Hills: The Mountains as a Place of Refuge and Dying for Steinbeck's Mexican Characters. *The Steinbeck Review* 1.2: 78-88.

Selected Presentations

Presentations Related to Leadership Roles

- Skipper, E. (October 2023). Invited Panelist. "Continuing and Workforce Development." South Carolina Association for Continuing Higher Education (SCACHE) Symposium. ACHE 85th Annual Conference. Charleston, SC.
- Skipper, E., Martha Moriarty, Babet Villena-Alvarez and USCB students. (October 2022). Invited presenter. "USCB Beaufort Campus Update: Programs, Projects, and People." Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). Beaufort, SC.
- Skipper, E. (May 2022). "USCB Update: Initiatives, Programs and Facilities." Invited presenter. City of Beaufort Neighborhood Meeting. Beaufort, SC.
- Skipper, E. (September 2021). Invited Guest Lecturer. "Regional Universities in a Post-Vaccine Paradigm." Seminar in Teaching Mass Communication (JOUR 805). University of South Carolina. Columbia, SC.
- Skipper, E. (July 2021). Invited Panelist. "The Regional Public Universities After 2020: A Conversation with AASCU Provosts." AASCU Academic Affairs Summer Meeting 2021. Virtual.

- Skipper, E. (March 2021). "The Modern University in Covid Times." Rotary Club of Bluffton. Bluffton, SC.
- Skipper, E. (February 2021). "The Future is Now: Higher Education and Equity in a Post-Vaccine Paradigm." Rotary Club of Beaufort. Beaufort, SC.
- Skipper, E. (February 2020). "First Things First: Developing an Academic Master Plan." 2020 AASCU Academic Affairs Winter Meeting. New Orleans, LA.
- Simmons, A. and Skipper, E. (February 2020). "Student Success Workshop." UofSC System Leadership Fellows Program. University of South Carolina Beaufort. Bluffton, SC.
- Sawyer, C. and Skipper, E. (July 2019). "Students Connected: Building Engaged Citizens Through Experiential Learning, Community Engagement." South Carolina Conference on Innovations in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. Charleston, SC.
- Mallory, B. and Skipper, E. (February 2019). "What Good is a Strategic Plan without Implementation?" 2019 AASCU Academic Affairs Winter Meeting. Amelia Island, FL.
- Bessent, L. and Skipper, E. (November 2018). "Student Success at USCB." UofSC System Leadership Fellows Program. University of South Carolina Beaufort. Bluffton, SC.
- Skipper, E. (March 2018). "Keynote Address." Beaufort County School District's 2018 Junior Scholar's Banquet. Bluffton, SC.
- Skipper, E. (June 2016). "Economic Development at a Branch Campus." Regional Branch Campus Administrators Senior Leadership Conference. Longboat Key, Florida.
- Skipper, E. (June 2015). "Partnerships and Advancement at an Engaged Branch Campus." UBTech Conference. Orlando, Florida.
- Orr, C., H. Page and E. Skipper. (February 2012). "The Student Success Center: Adult Learning and Retention." Adult Learning Consortium (ALC) Winter Institute. Atlanta, Georgia.
- Orr, C., H. Page and E. Skipper. (November 2011). "Reaching an Abstract Audience: Opportunities and Challenges." 2011 Council on Adult Experiential Learners (CAEL) International Conference. Chicago, Illinois.

Presentations Related to Academic Discipline

- Skipper, E. (April 2023). Invited Speaker. "Exponential Language AI and The Rise of Humans." The FutureYou Talks. Woxsen University, India. Virtual.
- Skipper, E. (March 2015). "John Steinbeck, Traveling Man." Julie Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art. Auburn University.

- Skipper, E. (February 2012). “*The Grapes of Wrath* and Migrant Labor in the 21st Century.” Gainesville Theatre Alliance (GTA) Pre-Curtain Lecture. Brenau University.
- Skipper, E. (April 2010). “The Mexican Revolution as Active Participant in Esquivel’s *Como agua para chocolate*.” 7th Annual Southeast Coastal Conference on Languages & Literatures (SCCLL). Georgia Southern University.
- Skipper, E. (April 2008). “The Mexican Revolution as Portrayed in Esquivel’s *Como agua para chocolate*.” 55th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies (SECOLAS). University of South Florida.
- Skipper, E. (November 2006). “Two Sides of the Border: Tragedy and Hope in Rubén Martínez’s *Crossing Over*.” 21st Annual International Literature Conference. Atlanta, Georgia.
- Skipper, E. (March 2006). “Conover’s *Coyotes*: A Continuation of Steinbeck’s Migrant Worker Legacy.” Steinbeck and His Contemporaries. Sun Valley, Idaho.
- Skipper, E. (February 2006). “Algún día me agradeceréis: La brutalidad ‘educativa’ en algunas novelas españolas.” 31st Annual Conference on Literature and Film. Florida State University.
- Skipper, E. (March 2005). “The Noble Drunkard: Divergent Portrayals of John Steinbeck’s Mexicans and Mexican-Americans.” 38th Annual Conference of the Southwest Council of Latin American Studies (SCOLAS). Veracruz, Mexico.
- Skipper, E. (January 2004). “The Spanish Tolstoy?: William Dean Howell’s Evaluation of the Fiction of Armando Palacio Valdés.” 29th Annual Conference on Literature and Film. Florida State University.
- Skipper, E. (January 2003). “The Tremendista Schoolmasters in Matute’s *Historias de la Artámila* and Delibes’ *El camino*.” 28th Annual Conference on Literature and Film. Florida State University.
- Skipper, E. (March 2002). “Death in the Hills: The Mountains as a Place of Refuge and Dying for Steinbeck’s Mexican Characters.” John Steinbeck’s Americas: A Centennial Conference. Hofstra University.
- Skipper, E. (January 2002). “Dour Views on Spanish Education in R. Pérez de Ayala’s *A.M.D.G.* and ‘El profesor auxiliar’.” 27th Annual Conference on Literature and Film, Florida State University.
- Skipper, E. (February 2001). “The Schoolmaster as a Conduit for Class Criticism: García Lorca’s *Doña Rosita la Soltera* and Hernández Catá’s “*El maestro*.” 26th Annual Conference on Literature and Film. Florida State University.
- Skipper, E. (October 1999). “Foolery to Fencing: The Subtle Commentary on Leisure Activity in Cervantes’ *El licenciado vidriera*.” 7th Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies Conference,

Florida International University.

Skipper, E. (October 1997). "El arte de nombrar en algunas obras maestras de Valle-Inclán, Unamuno y Baroja." 1st FIU-UM Conference on Iberian/ Iberian-American Literatures. Florida International University.

Grants

2023-2024. "South Coast Regional Innovation Engine: Cybersecurity Solutions for the Maritime Transportation Ecosystem." Submitted to the National Science Foundation and **funded on May 10, 2023**, in the amount of \$998,074. Principle Investigator: Eric Skipper. Project Manager: Warren Parker.

2021-2022. "South Coast Regional Cybersecurity Education and Development Program," Submitted to the US Department of Defense Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation and **funded on March 1, 2021**, in the amount of \$1,302,815. Principle Investigator: Eric Skipper. Project Manager: Dean Bushey.

Awards & Recognition

Paul Harris Fellow, Oconee County Rotary Club, 2016

Professor of the Year, American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) Georgia Chapter, 2010

Nomination, National Center on Higher Education and Public Policy, Gainesville State College, 2009

Graduate, Leadership Oconee, Oconee County Chamber of Commerce, 2008

Most Valuable Professor, Augusta State University, 2004

Outstanding Alumni Award, Jasper County High School, 2000

Nominations, Teaching Assistant of the Year, Florida State University, 1996, 1997, 1998

Courses Taught

Spanish American Culture

Introduction to Spanish Literature

Medical Spanish

Spanish Conversation (Advanced and Intermediate)

Spanish Composition (Advanced and Intermediate)

Intermediate Spanish

Elementary Spanish

Freshman Composition – English

First Year Seminar

Selected Boards and Service to the Profession

Community Engagement

Pritchards Island Research Living Shores (PIRLS), Executive Committee member, 2023-

South Coast Cyber Center, Executive Committee Member, 2019-
Vice Chair, 2023-

Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors, 2016-2017

Elachee Nature Science Center, Board of Trustees, 2016

Georgia Academy for Economic Development, Certificate Completion, 2016

Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce, Vision 2030 Education Committee, 2015-2016

Oconee County Rotary Club, 2013-2016

Oconee County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, 2013-2015

Oconee County Chamber of Commerce, Associate Board Member, 2008-2011

Athens Academy Advisory Board for International Studies, 2011

Professional Service

SACSCOC Substantive Change Committee Member, Academic Administrator, April 2023.
(Pending.)

The Citadel Graduate College. Mentor, Student Affairs Field Experience, Fall 2022.

Woxsen University (India) International Advisory Board, Member, 2022-

AASCU 2021 Academy for New Provosts, Mentor, 2021-22; 2022-23

SACSCOC Substantive Change Committee Member, Academic Administrator, September 2018

SACSCOC Reaffirmation Committee Member, Observer, October 2017

Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL), Prior Learning Assessor, 2011-2012

Georgia Tech Alumni 'Mentor Jackets': Student Mentoring Program, 2011-2013

University, System and State-level Service

SC Department of Commerce, Cyber Ecosystem Working Group: Innovation, 2023-

University of South Carolina System Entrepreneurship Harmonizing Council, 2021-

South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (SC CHE) Transfer and Articulation State Leadership Team, 2021-

USCB NCAA Athletic Advisory Committee, Chair, 2020-

USCB Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, Co-Chair, 2020-2021

University of South Carolina System LMS Governance Board, 2019-

South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (SC CHE), Advisory Committee on Academic Programs, 2016-

University of South Carolina System, Provost's Council, 2016-

University System of Georgia Accelerated Leadership Academy, Development Team, 2014

Georgia Council of Graduate Schools, President, 2014-2015; Vice President, 2013-2014

University of North Georgia. Fundraising and Philanthropy Training, 2013