

On March 1, 2010 it was announced that the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) Nurse Anesthesia Program was targeted for closure on June 30, 2010. The Medical College of Georgia made a unilateral decision to close the program in response to the demand by the Georgia Legislature and Board of Regents to cut 25.6 million dollars from the MCG budget. MCG decided to cut the program in its entirety as opposed to "across the board" budget cuts that would have been more desirable and fair. As a result, the students currently enrolled in the nurse anesthesia program would have to transfer to another program (if possible) to complete their education. This would have a profound impact on our students, GANA members, our profession and most of all our patients and in particular our patients in rural areas.

As you can see this is indeed a time of crisis. More than ever, we need the support of every single CRNA and SRNA in the state of Georgia to help support keeping the MCG nurse anesthesia program from closing. Please use the following talking points when contacting your legislators, board of regents, and MCG officials:

1. Do not close the nurse anesthesia program. It is a vital program. It serves to educate the CRNAs that provide anesthesia services throughout the state, especially in rural and underserved areas.
2. Regardless of funding or budget issues, the program should be retained. MCG can and should utilize fair "across the board" budget cuts to avoid the closure of any essential healthcare educational program.
3. MCG is the only state funded CRNA program. Elimination of this program would leave only one other CRNA program available in the state, which is private and cost prohibitive for many, to attend. It would certainly result in a further shortage of CRNAs here in Georgia and in particular the rural areas of Georgia which are nearly 100% served by CRNAs.

Additionally, please consider taking a moment of your time to make a generous PAC donation for this cause at [www.gana.org](http://www.gana.org). Here you can easily donate online or send your donation by US mail. GANA PAC funding is essential as we seek to support our elected officials that will assist us in our efforts to save the MCG Nursing Anesthesia Program.

On behalf of the GANA Board of Directors I would like to personally thank our GANA President, Barry Cranfill, ED/Legal Counsel, Christy Dunkleberger, Region 2 Director, Janice Izlar, and the incredible students for all of their tireless hours of hard work and dedication they have put forth so far in an effort to stop this injustice.

Steve Smith CRNA, MA  
GANA Immediate Past President

**Contact information:**

**To find your state rep and state senator click on these links: [www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org) and [www.vote-smart.org](http://www.vote-smart.org)**

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President Dr. Azziz can be reached via the MCG Operator at 706-721-0211  
(recently named the new President of MCG)  
William Bowes, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration – 706-721-2901  
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**BOARD OF REGENTS MEMBERS:**

Willis Potts: (c)706-233-1379, (p) 706-802-1313, [willis@itxmail.net](mailto:willis@itxmail.net) (had a great conversation with him today...very receptive to our concerns)  
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**VERY IMPORTANT PEOPLE TO NOT OVERLOOK:**

Honorable Sonny Purdue, Governor, State of GA: 404-656-1776  
Honorable Casey Cagle, Lt. Governor, State of GA: 404-656-5030  
Honorable David Ralston, Speaker of the H.O.R.: 404-656-5020

Honorable Jack Hill, Chairman of Senate Appropriations Committee: 404-656-5038  
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