

# Empowering metro Atlanta's global agenda

The Atlanta Global Studies Center intends to empower metro Atlanta's global agenda by fostering "international awareness, global competence and advanced language capacity" in the region's public and private sectors, the K-12 community and higher education.

AGSC promotes SDGs through various initiatives including:

1. AGSC coordinates the Higher Education Learning Community (HELIC) of [RCE Greater Atlanta](#), a regional sustainability network acknowledged by the United Nations University.
2. AGSC organizes an annual [symposium](#) on UN SDGs in Teaching, Research and Community Engagement, which focuses on the interface of research, communities, and action around SDGs. The [inaugural Symposium in 2019](#) welcomed more than 300 representatives of community organizations, K-12 educators, students and faculty. The work and community engagement efforts of RCE Greater Atlanta featured in the symposium are [recognized](#) by the United Nations University by an award for Innovative Projects on Education for Sustainable Development – an honorable mention for SDG 4 Quality Education.
3. AGSC organizes the Atlanta Peace Education Initiative for the Atlanta Peace Initiative, Inc, which is seeking to organize and build an [Ecosystem of Peace](#) in Atlanta. The educational initiative mobilizes an established network of faculty and research competence in peace-making and peace-building in the greater Atlanta region with an aim to establish Atlanta as a Hub for Global and Intercultural Peace Studies and Activism. In this effort, AGSC engages peace scholars, activists and higher education leaders from 14 colleges, universities and consortia to map the peace studies assets and landscape in our region with partners including:
  - Agnes Scott College, Atlanta University Center Consortium, Clark Atlanta University, Emory University, Georgia State University, Georgia Tech, Interdenominational Theological Center, Kennesaw State University, Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine, Oglethorpe University, Spelman College, University of Georgia, and University of North Georgia.
  - The center works with the nonprofit Atlanta Peace Inc., which coordinates the overall efforts in partnership with the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates Secretariat and with the involvement of the Rotary International, the Governor's Office, the Atlanta mayor's office, Atlanta Consular Corps, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Georgia Chamber, and the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau.
4. Coordinated by AGSC, the [Greater Atlanta Coalition](#) for Global Education and Research promotes linguistic and global competence in K-12 and higher education sectors in an ambitious effort to identify employer and industry needs. As an advocacy initiative, GAcGEAR promotes the sustainability of global education as well as regional sustainable economic development. To that end, the coalition also organizes [events](#) on subjects including targeted global expertise and language competence.
5. To further support AGSC's priorities in sustainability education, the Center collaborates with [CULTR at Georgia State University](#) and the [School of Modern Languages at Georgia Tech](#). As one of the nation's leaders in cross-cultural studies for global leadership through sustainability frameworks, the School of Modern Languages support a unique community-engagement and service-learning program at Georgia Tech's campus in Metz, France, and sustainability

courses in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Korean, Japanese, Russian and Spanish. The school and AGSC also prioritize student career education for global citizenship, which includes industry collaboration. The school's new professional master's programs, Applied Languages and Intercultural Studies, and Global Media and Cultures, integrate UN SDGs. Together, AGSC and the School of Modern Languages advance the region's global agenda, educating leaders of tomorrow.

*– Anna Westerstahl Stenport and Sebnem Ozkan*