

Jane Kidd

Alex Gregory Distinguished Fellow
and Leader in Residence

Jane Kidd is the Alex Gregory Distinguished Fellow and serves as Leader in Residence at Georgia College.

Kidd's career spans more than thirty years in public service and higher education. Elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 2004, she represented the 115th district in the General Assembly. She served as chair of the Democratic Party of Georgia from 2007 until 2011. Additionally, she served three terms on the City Council of Lavonia, Georgia and as campaign manager and district director for U.S. Congressman Don Johnson.

An experienced communicator and public relations professional, Kidd served in executive leadership roles at Clemson University, the University of Georgia's Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, and Piedmont University. She served as vice president for the public relations firm Gehring Associates and as director of development for the State Botanical Garden of Georgia.

Kidd began her education at Queens College (now Queens University) in Charlotte, North Carolina. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Georgia, where she graduated with honors. Additionally, she holds a master's degree in instructional technology from Piedmont College (now Piedmont University).



Kidd has been an officer or served on the boards of the Athens-Clarke County Clean and Beautiful Commission, Georgia Clean and Beautiful Citizens' Advisory Committee, the Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation, the Junior League of Athens, Clarke County Mentor Program, Rotary Club of Athens, Athens Symphony, Bethlehem Ministry (Haiti), as well as the University of Georgia's National Alumni Association and UGA's Grady College (Journalism) Alumni Association. She also serves as a trustee and member of the board of the Georgia College & State University Foundation.

Kidd is the daughter of S. Ernest Vandiver, Jr., 73rd Governor of Georgia, and grand-niece of Richard B. Russell, Jr. who represented Georgia in the U.S. Senate for nearly forty years. Her great-grandfather, Richard B. Russell, Sr., authored the original bill in the Georgia General Assembly to establish Georgia College. He later served as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia and remained president of the college's board of directors for nearly two decades. Russell Auditorium is named in his honor, and Georgia College's library is named for her great-grandmother, Ina Dillard Russell.

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Kidd and her husband, David, live in Crawford, Georgia and have two children and two grandchildren.

The Alex Gregory Leader in Residence fellowship brings highly experienced leaders to Georgia College for an extended period to share their expertise in leadership with the student and faculty community. The program is named for E. Alexander Gregory, Jr., '78, '79, an internationally recognized trailblazer in organizational leadership, manufacturing, and international trade.