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## Georgia Library Spotlight - Gordon State College, Hightower Library

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# GLA SPOTLIGHT

## Gordon State College Hightower Library

On the west side of the Gordon State College campus sits Hightower Library, recently re-opened after undergoing a complete renovation. The building was not the only thing to undergo changes. Upon re-opening its doors, the library received a new name that reflects its mission to support individual and collaborative group study. It is now officially known as the Dorothy W. Hightower Collaborative Learning Center & Library (CLC & Library). Dr. Sonya Gaither, director of Hightower CLC & Library since 2014, was instrumental in spearheading the library's renovation. It was under her leadership that the Board of Regents proceeded with the \$4.2 million renovation. Building renovations began in the summer of 2015, and the grand re-opening was held on April 21, 2016. Included among the 888 guests that day were speakers former Executive Director of Library Services Merryll Penson, Vice Chancellor Shelley Nickel, and Regent C. Thomas Hopkins, as well as the Hightower family.



Hightower Library was originally constructed in 1976, but its recent renovation is helping to bring Gordon State College into the twenty-first century. The updated facility boasts a number of modern conveniences from writable surfaces

to a self-checkout machine for books. Though no additional square footage has been added, many guests have remarked how much bigger the library seems. This is due to a more open floor plan as well as the addition of windows that flood the building with natural light and that allow visitors a prime view of campus.

Upon entering the library, visitors will find a spacious study lounge, equipped with plush seating, tables, and vending machines. Beyond this area lie the circulation desk and a computer station, which features sixteen computers, two printers, two ScannX machines, and a self-checkout book machine. An additional twenty computers are located behind the reference collection, giving students access to a total of thirty-six computers. The library also

provides two microfilm readers, twelve laptops that may be checked out by students, and thirty laptops that are used for classroom instruction. The general collection is located on the second floor, along with eight individual study rooms, nine group study rooms, and two classrooms (all of which may be reserved online). Each study room is furnished with a desk, chairs, writable walls, dry-erase markers, and erasers. The group study rooms also feature large screens equipped for laptop hookup.

Hightower Library is currently staffed by five librarians and three library assistants, three to

four student workers each semester, and interns and volunteers. The library's holdings include 102,757 books, 27,417 electronic books, 9,637 microfilms, and 4,785 audio-visual materials. Additionally, the library subscribes to 48 print magazines and provides access to over 8000 full text online journals in GALILEO. With its extensive collections, both print and

electronic, and its newly updated facilities, Hightower CLC & Library remains a vital component of the Gordon State College community.

To learn more, visit the library's website at <http://www.gordonstate.edu/library/> or follow the library on Facebook and Instagram.