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Georgia Library Spotlight - Thomas University Library

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GLA SPOTLIGHT

Thomas University Library

The goal of Thomas University Library is to empower students. The library is small, holding approximately 20,000 print books, and serves a population of roughly 1,000 associate's, bachelor's, and master's students. As the only academic library on campus, Thomas University (TU) Library strives to provide students with information, tools, and programs to help them succeed in their college pursuits and as members of their communities. An overwhelming majority of the TU student population is Georgia native, but, as most students commute, only 20% live locally. Therefore, the library's efforts to help them engage meaningfully with their own residential communities and with the TU community have to be both far reaching and individualized.

The program the library recently had success with is the TU Voter

Registration Drive that was hosted on April 11, 2018. The program's mission was to help give students the ability to be active participants in their community as registered voters. The registration drive was open to students from any state who are eligible to vote in the United States. The library staff was on hand to provide students with the support they needed to be informed voters. This included answering general questions, helping students look up their poll locations, and providing information

about congressional, state, and local elections. To celebrate civic duty and the right to vote, the library provided refreshments, music, and handouts for the enjoyment of all who attended.

Because a substantial portion of TU students are distance learners, the library made special efforts to keep them informed about the event and welcomed them to participate remotely. Library employees were able to answer questions about voting and voter registration over email. A few distance students even let the library know that they had registered to vote after hearing about the event!



The TU Library wants their students to know that it is a place where their questions and voices are valued. In an effort to create meaningful leadership opportunities, many of the library's student workers give input and take the initiative to choose library

programs and displays. Jocelyn, a TU master's student in clinical rehabilitation and longtime employee of the library, directed the drive as project organizer. She said that it was exciting to help students who had never registered to vote before and that the day went really well. By the end, 27 new voters were registered and 13 students verified that they were already registered. That's almost 10% of the TU on-campus population who were in attendance.

During finals week, TU Library's private study spaces and computer labs were full of students in the midst of studying. The library even converted a spare office into another group study room to give students a place to talk and practice presentations. The Thomas University Library wishes their students and all the college

students in Georgia good luck on their final exams, papers, and projects!

Please visit Thomas University Library website at www.thomasu.edu/library to learn more about the library and its services.