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GAINESVILLE STATE COLLEGE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: SLOAN JONES, 678-717-3836

Gainesville, GA., February 4, 2011 -

On February 2, 2011, GSC President Martha T. Nesbitt issued the following statement with regard to the painting "Heritage?" being removed from the from the 2011 Gainesville State College Faculty Biennial Exhibition.

"Sometimes a president has to make difficult decisions. First and foremost, I have to consider the impact of an action on the health and reputation of the institution. In this instance, I made a judgment call that the negative results would outweigh the positive ones," Martha T. Nesbitt.

On February 4, 2011, the following statement was issued by Dr. Nesbitt as follow-up to her initial statement as there has been much speculation regarding the thought process.

"I stand behind my original decision which was not based on any one group's agenda, complaint, or the overall content of the painting. It focused solely on the image that has been perceived as aggressively hostile in other areas of the country and other academic institutions- that being the graphic depiction of a lynching. I personally welcome constructive ideas about how we might move forward and use this experience to foster civil discourse on the issues raised."

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