

Randy Powers, who has worked more than 18 years in the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, has joined the University of Georgia as director of state government relations.

Steve Wrigley, vice president for government relations, selected Powers to fill the new position. Powers will be one of the university's chief liaisons with all branches of state government.

In the planning and budget office, Powers has provided budget and policy analysis on many higher education issues, as well as matters involving elementary and secondary education and economic development. Most recently he was special assistant to the OPB director, working primarily on Gov. Roy Barnes' A+ Education Reform Act.

"Randy is very familiar with the state's budget and legislative processes, and especially with issues concerning education," said Wrigley. "His knowledge and experience will be instrumental in helping the university continue to obtain vital state support for its academic programs."

Powers earned a bachelor's degree in history from UGA and a master's in public administration from Georgia State University.