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| **Graphical user interface, application, website  Description automatically generated**  For immediate release: Monday, February 8, 2021  **North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System celebrates over 50 years of academic partnerships**    **Gainesville, Fla.** — The [North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System (NFSGVHS)](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.northflorida.va.gov%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7C637051815b2d4582d87108d8cd16a508%7Ce95f1b23abaf45ee821db7ab251ab3bf%7C0%7C0%7C637484844422154646%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=%2FvVoJD00ZPVliu4RmNKwGayy%2FX75DoB58cljgXALQ6s%3D&reserved=0) has trained tens of thousands of physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals as part of its long-standing relationship with over 200 academic institutions over the past 54 years. These professionals are the nation’s health care workforce pipeline who have gone on to care for Veterans and other patients in urban and rural communities across the United States.  The [VA’s academic mission](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.va.gov%2FOAA%2F75th_anniversary.asp&data=04%7C01%7C%7C637051815b2d4582d87108d8cd16a508%7Ce95f1b23abaf45ee821db7ab251ab3bf%7C0%7C0%7C637484844422154646%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=nkoaVsZMWFwp1q5XsPhdYy1Iehbe1sl3y4tWrTVx0vM%3D&reserved=0) began in 1946 with the adoption of Policy Memorandum No. 2, establishing a remarkable partnership between VA and its academic affiliates. Seventy-five years later, VA provides training to nearly 70% of all U.S. physicians.  “We began partnering with the [University of Florida (UF)](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ufl.ed%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7C637051815b2d4582d87108d8cd16a508%7Ce95f1b23abaf45ee821db7ab251ab3bf%7C0%7C0%7C637484844422164605%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=0K%2Br%2BQYXZHROeN27BBbTmGdUY%2F8%2F2y15srcIsA71JZs%3D&reserved=0) in 1967. The affiliation was unique at the time and involved the College of Medicine and other UF colleges across all health fields, said Dr. Lawrence Hood, Associate Chief of Staff for Education, NFSGVHS. “In the following years, affiliations evolved as training programs evolved, to include trainees from 40 physician specialties, as well as, the fields of nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, speech pathology, dietetics, psychology, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and others,” he said.  NFSGVHS currently has affiliations with over 200 schools across the United States and in Canada. Each year, NFSGVHS faculty train over 2,000 students and residents.  “It is an honor to be a part of positive advancements and cutting-edge efforts serving those who served our nation. The NFSGVHS takes pride in its academic partnerships and achievements,” said Thomas Wisnieski, Health System Director. “We look forward to continuing our partnerships that benefit us all with the passion to learn and power to heal.”  During the pandemic, VA has worked with medical schools and programs across the country to utilize health professional trainees to care for Veterans virtually and in-person while completing their training requirements. The number of physician residents training in VA over the past year increased by more than 2,000 and, according to the American Association of Medical Colleges, applications to medical schools have increased by 18% for the upcoming 2021 academic year.  NFSGVHS’s recent and continuing participation in COVID-19 response initiatives and 4th mission efforts demonstrates the unique benefits our partnerships provide for our Veterans and communities.  Affiliated with more than 1,800 academic institutions including 97% of America’s medical schools, VA trains future health professionals in over 40 disciplines including physicians, psychologists, nurses, pharmacists and social workers. Approximately 120,000 health professions trainees help care for more than 9 million Veterans at clinical sites around the country.  To learn more about NFSGVHS’s academic affiliates, please contact L. Chad Hood, MD, Associate Chief of Staff for Education at [Laurence.Hood@va.gov](mailto:Laurence.Hood@va.gov). For more information about academic affiliates, visit VA’s Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) website.  ###  **MEDIA CONTACT:** Office of Communications and Outreach North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System  352.283.4735 I [vhanflpublicaffairs@va.gov](mailto:vhanflpublicaffairs@va.gov) |
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| **North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System** Malcom Randall and Lake City VA Medical Center’s 1601 Southwest Archer Road | Gainesville, FL 32608-1135 | PH: 352-376-1611  619 South Marion Avenue | Lake City, FL 32025-5808 | PH: 386-755-3016  The North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System is one of the nation's leading VA healthcare systems, employing more than 5,600 medical professionals and support staff dedicated to providing high quality care to Veterans residing throughout north Florida and south Georgia. The organization operates fifteen facilities to include two medical centers located in Gainesville and Lake City, and clinics located throughout a 50-county catchment area.  To learn more about the facilities and services offered by the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System, please visit [www.northflorida.va.gov](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.northflorida.va.gov%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7C637051815b2d4582d87108d8cd16a508%7Ce95f1b23abaf45ee821db7ab251ab3bf%7C0%7C0%7C637484844422164605%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=jpYLoX8FY6PCKOs6pQADV8mLc4xMpsWgavt7dRhL120%3D&reserved=0) or “like us on Facebook at [https://www.facebook.com/VANFSG](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FVANFSG&data=04%7C01%7C%7C637051815b2d4582d87108d8cd16a508%7Ce95f1b23abaf45ee821db7ab251ab3bf%7C0%7C0%7C637484844422164605%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=26%2FqGSo%2BYOYozCSm6RxK327W20%2FT%2BebUAkKi9Pith8A%3D&reserved=0), or follow us on Instagram at [https://www.instagram.com/VANFSG/](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.instagram.com%2FVANFSG%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7C637051815b2d4582d87108d8cd16a508%7Ce95f1b23abaf45ee821db7ab251ab3bf%7C0%7C0%7C637484844422174560%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=mWmFwxkNo3wNum8qtaIyynfzMjCglYkJdEwZBxZKKo4%3D&reserved=0)  For any questions about the content of this message, please contact the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System Office of Public Affairs at 352-348-7130 or email [vhanflpublicaffairs@va.gov](mailto:vhanflpublicaffairs@va.gov). |