

JIMMY CARTER AT GSW

President Jimmy Carter had an immeasurable impact on Georgia Southwestern State University (GSW). Carter attended in the early 1940s when the institution was still known as Georgia Southwestern College. He was an active student and remained an active alumnus throughout his life.

Through the Years

- 1941 Carter begins his freshman year at Georgia Southwestern College in Americus, Ga. He lived in Terrell Hall, played intramural basketball, and was a member of the Ingenuity, Fidelity, Trustworthiness (IFT) fraternity.
- 1973 Carter delivers the commencement address at GSW's graduation and attended the dedication ceremony for the James Earl Carter Library.
- 1981 Carter receives an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from GSW at the Fall graduation ceremony and shakes each students' hand as they cross the stage.
- 2003 The Carters announce that \$370,000 of Jimmy Carter's 2002 Nobel Peace Prize award will be given to the RCI.
- 2006 The Carters received the Excellence in Philanthropy Award from Betty Pope, representing the GSW Foundation, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to GSW.
- 2013 President Carter speaks at GSW's Spring graduation ceremony alongside grandson and commencement speaker Jason Carter.
- 2017 President Carter signs his name in concrete to be displayed in the new Presidential Plaza in front of GSW's Wheatley Administration building.
- 2018 The Carters visit campus to meet fellow GSW alumna and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Jaha Dukureh.
- 2019 The first cohort of the President Jimmy Carter Leadership Program meets with President Carter at the Plains High School.

The Carter Family and GSW

The Carter family's impact on GSW's history is undeniable. A number of locations on campus are named after and pay tribute to the family.

President Jimmy Carter Leadership Program

The Carter Leadership Program was established in 2019 to honor the legacy of GSW alumnus and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. The program exemplifies Carter's lifetime of leadership in education, politics and community service.

James Earl Carter Library

The GSW library was named after Jimmy Carter's late father in June 1973.

Presidential Plaza

Located in front of the Wheatley Administration building, the Plaza was completed in 2017. The Plaza features a mounted signature-etching where President Carter etched his name in wet cement as a GSW freshman in 1942 and again in 2018 at the dedication ceremony.

Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers

Founded on GSW's campus as the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving (RCI) in 1987, this organization supports Mrs. Carter's passion for supporting caregivers.

Rosalynn Carter Health and Human Sciences Complex

These two buildings, Carter I and Carter II, were completed in 2012 and house the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, the Herschel H. Smith Health Clinic, the Department of Psychology & Sociology and the RCI.

Rosalynn Carter statue

Located in front of the Carter I building, the statue of the former First Lady was unveiled in 2013. The garden surrounding the statue is just one of many on the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail.

GSW Philanthropy

The Carters remained faithful supporters of GSW as part of the Founders List with cumulative giving of \$250,000 or more.

Questions?

Please direct all GSW-specific questions to the Department of University Relations at univrel@gsw.edu. For more information about President Carter and GSW as well as multimedia resources, visit gsw.edu/JimmyCarterTribute.