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NGCF President Jim Mathis Named Mike Banks Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient
Inaugural award presented by UNG Mike Cottrell School of Business

GAINESVILLE, Ga. (March 26, 2015) – The University of North Georgia’s Mike Cottrell School of Business has named North Georgia Community Foundation President Jim Mathis as its first recipient of the Mike Banks Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mathis will receive the award on April 2 at the college’s Celebrating Inspirational Leaders event which honors regional leaders for their “inspirational efforts and leadership over the years.”

The award is named in memory University of North Georgia development officer and community volunteer Mike Banks.

“Mike was a great friend,” Mathis said. “We grew up together and worked on many community projects over the years. Mike was always thinking about how he could encourage philanthropy. It is a great honor to receive the Mike Banks Lifetime Achievement Award.”

Mathis joined the staff of NGCF after a 25-year career in banking. During his tenure, NGCF has grown from \$3 million to almost \$50 million in charitable assets and \$175 million in total invested assets. Mathis has served as a founding board member of the Georgia Mountain Food Bank, a trustee of Brenau University and a lifetime trustee of Gainesville State College.

He also led Gainesville-Hall '96, the local organizing group responsible for the 1996 Olympic rowing and canoe/kayak competitions held on Lake Lanier. Mathis has won Man of the Year honors from both the Gainesville Jaycees and the Rotary Club of Gainesville, and was honored by Brenau University with its Distinguished Citizen Award.

Founded in 1985 by Lou Fockele and other business leaders, the North Georgia Community Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the spirit and quality of life in the Northeast Georgia community by building, managing and awarding charitable grants from a pool of community funds valued in excess of \$47 million. To date, more than \$50 million in grants have been awarded. The organization also promotes training and networking among the region’s nearly

300 non-profits. For more information, please contact the foundation at www.ngcf.org or call (770) 535-7880 ext. 226.

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