Press Release

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Announcing the third annual International Campus & Community Day Taking stock of town-and-gown partnerships Contact: Beth Bagwell, executive director, International Town & Gown Association (ITGA), beth@itga.org or 864-616-2987 (mobile); email itga.org and visit @ITGA_org on Twitter.

CLEMSON, S.C. — The International Town & Gown Association (ITGA) is proud to announce the third annual International Campus & Community Day on April 23, 2024, in recognition of the essential, powerful relationship between campuses and their host communities. Colleges and their neighboring communities are invited to spotlight their partnerships in person and online, featuring the economic, intellectual, civic and social benefits they bring.

“College campuses contribute enormously to the neighborhoods or towns in which they reside,” says ITGA Executive Director Beth Bagwell, “and college students tell us that they base their college decision in part on the health and vitality of the surrounding community.”

ITGA is encouraging participants — who need not be members of ITGA — to showcase their dynamic collaborations on social media: X (Twitter), Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook, TikTok, and more using the hashtag #campusandcommunity. Promotions may include:

- Community service projects that bring together faculty, staff, students and civic leaders.
- A press conference with the mayor and university president standing by the entrance from the community into campus.
- On-air interviews scheduled in advance that highlight recent campus news or a campus community collaboration.
- Photo highlights of engagement over the last year that demonstrates commitment and collaboration between campus and community partners.

Insert local content: [Write a paragraph about what is happening in your community; try to keep the press release to two pages total, deleting “More about ITGA” if necessary.]

“Campus and Community Day is a unique way to highlight the collaborative partnerships that make our town-and-gown communities stronger and more resilient,” Bagwell says. “As occurred the last two years,
we will shine a spotlight on the different ways that campus communities work to improve quality of life for residents, business owners, students, faculty and staff.”

Many members and friends of ITGA participated last two years by highlighting ways that their campus and community collaborate. Social media posts ranged from pictures of the president and mayor standing side-by-side to “Campus and Community Day” proclamations to details of specially-planned community events that included town and gown partnerships. International Campus and Community Day takes place on the fourth Tuesday of April.

**Upcoming ITGA annual conference**

The theme “The Power of Partnerships: Solving Grand Challenges Together” will be spotlighted at the 2024 ITGA conference — being hosted by University of Maryland and City of College Park – June 5 through June 7, 2024. This year’s theme is inspired by University of Maryland President Dr. Darryll Pines’ campus-wide commitment to addressing unprecedented global challenges through the exchange of stories, collaborative exploration of issues, and the pursuit of innovative solutions. There are three conferences tracks and selected sessions will focus on community & civic engagement, social justice, health and safety, racial equity, disparities in education, and climate change.

Learn more and register to attend: https://www.itga.org/index.php/conference/2024-conference

**More about ITGA:** The [International Town and Gown Association (ITGA)](https://www.itga.org) serves as the only global non-profit organization focused on the dynamic between colleges and their host communities. Founded in 2008 and based in Clemson, South Carolina, the ITGA offers members resources, education, networking and solutions to the challenges, emerging issues and unique opportunities found in town and gown relationships. Our members are a diverse group of higher education administrators, elected officials, community groups and campus neighbors who collaborate on issues such as economic development, sustainability, housing, diversity and inclusion, quality of life and civic engagement. Learn more at itga.org.