

ROSALYNN CARTER AT GSW

Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter had an immeasurable impact on Georgia Southwestern State University (GSW). Mrs. Carter was an alumna, graduating in 1946 when the institution was still known as Georgia Southwestern College. She was an active student and remained an active alumna, later founding the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers on GSW's campus.

Through the Years

- 1946 Rosalynn earns a Junior College Diploma from Georgia Southwestern College in Americus, Ga.
- 1975 Mrs. Carter is recognized as the first recipient of GSW's Aeolian Award, which recognizes distinguished alumni.
- 1982 President Carter and Mrs. Carter co-found The Carter Center in Atlanta, Ga.
- 1987 The Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving (now Caregivers, RCI) is established on GSW's campus.
- 1987 Mrs. Carter, nominated by GSW, receives the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.
- 2001 GSW awards Mrs. Carter an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.
- 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.
- 2011 Mrs. Carter earned the Regents Hall of Fame Alumni Award from the University System of Georgia after her nomination by GSW.
- 2012 Construction of the Rosalynn Carter Health and Human Sciences Complex is completed.

Questions?

Please direct all GSW-specific questions to the Department of University Relations at univrel@gsw.edu.

For more information about Mrs. Carter and GSW as well as multimedia resources, visit gsw.edu/RosalynnCarterTribute.

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.

Rosalynn Carter Health and Human Sciences Complex

These two buildings, Carter I and Carter II, house the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, the Herschel H. Smith Health Clinic, the Department of Psychology & Sociology and the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers.

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 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.

James Earl Carter Library

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

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.

Rosalynn Smith on Campus

During her time at GSW, Mrs. Carter was:

- Vice President of the 1946 Class
- Founding member of the Young Democrats Club
- Campus Marshal
- Member of C.G. Club, which supported day students, and the Tumbling Club