

# GAYNOR GILLIS CHEOKAS

Assistant Professor of Management  
Director, Center for Business and Economic Development  
Georgia Southwestern State University  
Americus, Georgia

## Education:

D.B.A., Business Administration, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA  
M.S.A., Business Management, Georgia Southwestern State University, Americus, GA  
B.S., Political Science, Columbus State University, Columbus, GA

## Profile:

Dr. Cheokas' faculty responsibilities include teaching undergraduate and graduate courses and advising business students. Cheokas currently serves as Dean of the College of Business and Computing at Georgia Southwestern State University. She joined Georgia Southwestern in the Fall of 2004. She has taught undergraduate and graduate level courses primarily in small business management, entrepreneurship, and organizational behavior and leadership.

Cheokas also serves as Director of the Center for Business and Economic Development at Georgia Southwestern State University housed in the College of Business and Computing. This position affords Gaynor the opportunity to work with many existing small businesses as well as consult with pre-venture entrepreneurs during their start-up phase. As Director, she consults one-on-one with entrepreneurs, provides support services to economic development agencies and local governments, and teaches continuing education classes on a variety of business topics. Her area of interest is working with family owned entities as they plan leadership transitions and develop succession plans.

Before joining GSW, Dr. Cheokas served as Area Director in Americus for the Small Business Development Center network of Georgia. Her background includes twenty-one years of work experience in the private sector; nineteen of those years were spent in middle and upper management positions. As Director of Stores for The Tog Shop, Inc., she was responsible for the planning and management of all retail interest owned and operated by The Tog Shop. She planned and implemented promotional programs to achieve projected annual sales, planned and administered budgets, and tailored merchandising plans for each location. Gaynor has extensive knowledge and experience in marketing, customer service, and small business management; specifically having a well rounded background in multi-unit retail management.

She is a graduate of the Georgia Academy for Economic Development and is a member of the Georgia Oglethorpe Award Board of Examiners (Malcolm Baldrige Award). She is a past president of the Americus Rotary Club and past president of the Sumter Historic Trust. Other community service activities include serving on the advisor and foundation board of Innovative Senior Solutions and she is a member on the Family Connection Collaborative Advisory Board. Her hobbies include going to the movies, spending time with family and friends, reading, and traveling. She is married to Mike Cheokas and they have three children, Brittany, Athan, and Lexie and two grandchildren, Teagan and Savana.