Dr. Pamela Whitten has served as Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at the University of Georgia since 2014. As the chief academic officer at UGA, she oversees instruction, research, public service and outreach, student affairs, and information technology. The vice presidents of these five areas report to her, as do the deans of UGA’s 17 schools and colleges and the campus dean of the Augusta University/UGA Medical Partnership. Associate provosts for academic fiscal affairs, academic programs, faculty affairs, the Honors Program, international education, and the libraries also report to her, as do the vice provost for academic affairs and the vice provost for diversity and inclusion and strategic university initiatives.

During her tenure as Provost, Whitten has worked with President Jere W. Morehead and faculty and administrators from across campus to implement a number of enhancements to the learning environment, including reducing class sizes, enhancing advising services, and making UGA the nation’s largest public university to ensure that each of its undergraduate students engages in hands-on learning through internships, research, and other forms of experiential learning. An initiative to increase the recruitment of graduate students and to expand their professional development opportunities is underway, and the University recently launched more than 130 linked bachelor’s/master’s degree pathways through the Double Dawgs program.

Her office has identified three Signature Research Themes at the University—improving human health, creating a more secure future, and strengthening communities—and has spearheaded enhancements to grants administration and supported faculty hiring initiatives that have dramatically increased research activity. The University also has deepened its commitment to public service and outreach during her tenure through new programs related to economic development, community revitalization, and cybersecurity.

Prior to being named Provost at UGA, Whitten was Dean of the College of Communication Arts and Sciences at Michigan State University. She is an internationally recognized expert in the field of telemedicine—the remote delivery of health care services and information—who has conducted her research with nearly $30 million in funding from agencies such as the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Commerce. She has co-authored two books and published more than 100 peer-reviewed research articles and book chapters.

Whitten holds a Ph.D. in communication studies from the University of Kansas, a master’s degree in organizational communication from the University of Kentucky, and a bachelor’s degree in business magna cum laude from Tulane University.