



On May 7, 2009, His Holiness and Beatitude Catholicos Patriarch of All Georgia, Archbishop of Mtskheta and Tbilisi Ilia II granted the highest award of the Georgian Church – the Medal of Saint George - to the Sokhumi State University. The ceremony of bestowal was held at the Patriarchate on May 17.

Catholicos Patriarch personally passed the medal to the acting rector of the Sokhumi State University, Professor Joni Apakidze. The University is the first among all educational institutions of Georgia, which has received such a high award.

Celebration was continued at the Patriarchate. The Head of the Spiritual and Cultural Center of the Sokhumi State University, Svetlana Ketsba was conducting the evening. The choral group of the University students and the well-known opera singers participated in the concert, which was held after the official part of the meeting.

Catholicos Patriarch donated to the Students 10 000 USD from the Patriarchate Foundation.