

**What:** CAREER Award Reception  
**When:** January 30  
**What:** Reception to honor all Tech PYI/NYI/CAREER recipients  
**Who:** PYI/NYI/CAREER recipients, deans, chairs, and administrators (Around 40 people in all)

Good afternoon and welcome to our reception honoring PYI, NYI, and CAREER award recipients.

The NSF Faculty Early Career Development program (better known as the CAREER award)—along with its older incarnations, the Presidential Young Investigator and the NSF Young Investigator awards—recognizes the best of America’s young research university faculty.

The NSF’s description of the award states, “This premier program emphasizes the importance the Foundation places on the early development of academic careers dedicated to stimulating the discovery process in which the excitement of research is enhanced by inspired teaching and enthusiastic learning. It combines in a single program the support of research and education of the highest quality and in the broadest sense.”

Here at Georgia Tech, approximately 55 of you have been honored with one of these awards. As such, you represent the best of our young faculty and the foundation for future Institute excellence. You are, in fact, an important element of our strategic plan because the best way to help our students stay at the forefront of emerging and rapidly proliferating knowledge is to put them in contact with those most likely to produce that knowledge—you, our top-notch young faculty.

As both an alumnus of Georgia Tech and its president, I am

gratified by the national recognition paid to Georgia Tech and its young faculty. In the last two fiscal years, 13 of you were honored with the CAREER award. When compared with our peer institutions, Georgia Tech ranks 3rd in the nation for the number of faculty receiving this award—ahead of institutions such as Purdue, the University of Michigan, and my graduate alma mater, the University of California at Berkeley.

These rankings are a good indicator of our future success—as they show the strength of the cadre of elite young faculty here at Georgia Tech.

Today's reception is intended to both honor your achievements as well as let you know your value to Georgia Tech. We appreciate your hard work, your innovation, and your intellectual abilities—and look forward to further collaborating with you to take Georgia Tech to the highest levels of American universities.

Thank you.