

What: Board of Industry, Trade, and Tourism  
When: November 7  
Length: 10 minutes—5 for speech, 5 for questions

Good morning. On behalf of Georgia Tech, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Georgia Tech and the Georgia Center for Advanced Telecommunications Technology—or GCATT for those of us who must have an acronym for everything.

As Georgia Tech looks toward the new millennium, our goal is to move to the next level of America's research universities—to become more well-known, more prestigious, and more valuable to industry and government.

We have already built a firm foundation of excellence from which to launch this venture. During the past year, we were ranked as one of the top 50 universities in the nation by *U.S. News and World Report*, and 14 of our graduate programs were ranked in the top 25 programs in the country—with two of those programs being ranked number one. In addition, *Money Magazine*, *U.S. News and World Report*, and—believe it or not—*Rolling Stone*—ranked us among the nation's top 15 values in higher education. I will admit that I most preferred *Rolling Stone*'s tag line about its article, which read, "Cool schools! Real jobs! Rock and roll!"

Our research levels not only rock, they also reflect our emphasis on excellence, continued drive toward the next higher level, and desire to work with Georgia companies to improve the economy of Georgia. In 1995-1996, Tech achieved a record-high research expenditures level of \$200 million—a 13 percent increase over FY 95. Especially significant is that while our federal research awards dipped, awards from industry doubled. As federal awards

are forecasted to continue to decline, industry support is especially important to our enterprise.

As always, educating the leaders of the future was our top priority and Tech students continued to live up to the high expectations set for them. Our average entering SAT score climbed more than 5 points, and our 1995 fall freshman class, based on academic measures, was ranked number one in the country for public institutions.

Our accomplishments for 1995-1996 are all the more noteworthy when you consider the environment in which we operated for much of the year. You might remember a small event that occurred here this summer—the 1996 Olympics. As the official Olympic Village and site of two Olympic venues, Georgia Tech spent much of last year completing a \$315 million construction project.

Our legacies from the Olympics were many, and the improved infrastructure will support our move to the next level—helping us recruit the nation's premier high school students. Campus Olympic legacies include seven new residence halls, a new Aquatic Center, the renovated Alexander Memorial Coliseum, and FutureNet, a state-of-the-art telecommunications network. In addition, Tech received worldwide publicity from the event and mentions of Georgia Tech were published, viewed, or aired for an average of 7 stories a day for 7 days/week for 7 months.

A final high note from 1996 that I would like to mention is the addition of a new faculty member, Senator Sam Nunn. Senator Nunn will become a part-time distinguished professor in the School of International Affairs—which has been renamed in

his honor. When Senator Nunn accepted the appointment, he said a few words that reveal much about Georgia Tech's future directions and goals. He said, "Technology and science are outrunning the world of law, the world of religion, the world of human relations, the world of government, and the world of international relations. Bridges must be built between the world of science and the world of human relations—bridges which can give shape and purpose to our technology and breathe heart and soul into our knowledge. Here at Georgia Tech, in close consultation and collaboration with our other fine public and private institutions, I believe that we can build those bridges."

As we move toward the next level, "building bridges" and partnerships will be vital to our continued success.

In fact, the building where you are meeting today, GCATT, is a prime example of a unique business, government, and education partnership. Created because of Governor Miller's commitment to Georgia's burgeoning telecommunications industry and funded through the Georgia Research Alliance, GCATT houses collaborative projects among leading information industry companies and all six of the Georgia Research Alliance universities. Located within GCATT are GRA Eminent Scholars; synergistic laboratories for research in areas such as multimedia, distance learning, telemedicine, and virtual reality; and exhibit space. The Georgia Tech research centers within GCATT have stated goals of moving Atlanta and Georgia forward to world leadership in advanced telecommunications in the 21st century. Also included in the Center are established and start-up high-tech telecommunications companies—several of whom are led by graduates of Georgia Tech!

During GCATT's dedication this summer, Governor Miller said, "This research center is tangible evidence that Georgia has both the resources and the determination to become the global center for advanced telecommunications in the 21st century."

I agree—at GCATT, we have the government and industry support, the infrastructure, and the intellectual capacity to become the standard by which all other telecommunications centers are measured.

In addition, the GCATT partnership is an excellent example and trail blazer for future cooperation between industry, government, and education. Cooperation that will benefit the state of Georgia, the city of Atlanta, and the individual schools and research centers that participate.

In closing, I would like to once again welcome you to GCATT and to the future of the telecommunications industry.

Thank you.