

What: Focus Welcome  
When: Friday, January 16  
Audience: Around 200 African American students from more than 60 universities around the country. Each student has a GPA of 3.0 and up.  
Focus Purpose: Focus has been designed as a way to bring eligible African-American students to the Tech campus, and to interest them in our graduate programs. Throughout the weekend, the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will be explored and celebrated.

Good evening and welcome to Georgia Tech and to Focus '98. We appreciate your joining us. This weekend we have many events planned for you--from overviews of Georgia Tech programs to tips on securing financial aid to our annual Martin Luther King Jr. ecumenical service. Throughout the weekend, we will both focus on the past--specifically the great achievements of Dr. King's--as well as look forward to the future--specifically the potential inherent in you, today's students and tomorrow's leaders.

When the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was just 34 years old, he led the march on Washington and delivered his famous "I Have a Dream Speech." His words changed the world, and more than 30 years later, those words continue to stir millions...continue to inspire dreams and ...continue to initiate positive, nonviolent action.

I myself was attending Georgia Tech during the years of the civil rights movement. Like many of those around me, Dr. King's speeches and accomplishments greatly influenced my life. And, it was with pride that I witnessed Georgia Tech being the first public university in

Georgia to admit African-American students without a court order.

The world lost a great leader when we lost the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The most sweeping social reforms in American history can be directly attributed to this man who won a Nobel Prize in his 34th year of life and who died before his 40th birthday. Dr. King accomplished so much for the world, that it is often forgotten he was also a great scholar who earned a graduate divinity degree from Crozer Seminary and a Ph.D. from Boston University.

In fact, it was through his education that he obtained many of the inspirations that led to the vision that shaped his future. He frequently cited both Thoreau and his writings on Civil Disobedience as well as Ghandi's writings as examples of strong inspiration.

Tonight, I'd like to urge you to follow in his footsteps and consider an advanced degree. You have been invited here today because you have excelled as undergraduates. You have begun developing your leadership potential and have earned honors from your respective schools.

Graduate school can help you further refine your leadership skills...further explore your potential...and further discover the vision that will shape your future.

Specifically I'd like to urge you to consider Georgia Tech's graduate programs. As one of the nation's foremost technological institutions, we have much to offer you. Recent Georgia Tech accolades include:

- A top 10 ranking among America's public

universities by *U.S. News & World Report*.

- A number one ranking for the number of National Science Foundation CAREER Awards earned by young faculty. The NSF CAREER Award recognizes the best young science and engineering faculty in the country.
- A number five ranking for the highest percentage of National Achievement Scholars among public schools in the U.S.
- A number one ranking for the number of GEM (National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering) fellows.
- A survey in *Black Issues in Higher Education* ranks Georgia Tech first nationally in awarding master's and doctoral degrees to African Americans in engineering, technology, computer science, and mathematics.
- Finally, according to the most recent statistics from Georgia Tech's Career Services office, 70 percent of Georgia Tech students have secured employment at the time of graduation.

As you can see, Georgia Tech has much to offer you. In addition to the academic advantages at Georgia Tech, there are also plenty of other opportunities and programs such as The African American Student Union, the Diversity Forum, NSBE, and hundreds of social and activity and interests clubs. Just recently, a panel discussion program composed of students and administrators was held here on campus to discuss the timely issue of affirmative action. Many of our activities are student-initiated, such as the recent TeamBuzz, Georgia Tech Community Service Day.

Even if you do not choose Georgia Tech (although I personally can see no reason not to do so!), I encourage you to attend graduate school. As the Information Age continues, the leaders of tomorrow will be those who have

been educated to understand technology. It is especially important that many of those leaders come from minority backgrounds.

To conclude, I would once again like to welcome you to Georgia Tech. I hope you have an enjoyable, useful, and memorable weekend.

Thank you.

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Good morning and welcome to Georgia Tech's ecumenical service in honor of the life and achievements of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

It is my pleasure to welcome back to our campus, this morning's speaker, Representative John Lewis. Representative Lewis has spoken at a past Georgia Tech commencement, and we are honored to once again offer an opportunity for students to benefit from his wisdom and experience.

Representative John Lewis has been described as one of the most courageous persons the Civil Rights Movement produced. A peer and friend of the Reverend Dr. King, Representative Lewis has been in the vanguard of progressive social movements and human rights struggles in the United States since the 1960s. During the height of the Civil Rights Movement from 1963 to 1966, Lewis was the chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), an organization largely responsible for the sit-ins and other activities in the struggle for civil rights.

Despite 40 arrests, physical attacks, and serious injuries, he has remained a devoted advocate of nonviolence. After

leaving SNCC in 1966 he worked for the Southern Regional Council's voter registration programs, and later became director of the Voter Education Project.

Congressman Lewis' first electoral success came in 1981 when he was elected to the Atlanta City Council. He resigned from the Council in 1986 to begin his successful campaign for Congress. In 1996 he was elected to a sixth term in Congress. During his years in Congress, he has continued to work hard to realize justice and equality for all, and is currently serves as chief deputy democratic whip. In addition, he serves on the influential Democratic Steering Committee, the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Congressional Black Caucus, and is co-chair of the Congressional Urban Caucus.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming Representative John Lewis.