

Dr. Peterson

Inaugural Atlanta Science Festival Sponsor Appreciation Event

Tuesday, March 18, 2014, Metro Atlanta Chamber, J. B. Fuqua Rooftop Pavilion

- We at Georgia Tech are proud to partner with Emory and the Metro Atlanta as founding sponsors of this exciting, citywide event. The Atlanta Science Festival is a community-led enterprise, bringing more than 80 collaborators together to offer public programming that highlights our region's science and technology successes.
- We would like to thank each collaborating organization for supporting the Festival's mission and for dedicating your staff time and resources to this larger effort.
- The Atlanta Science Festival would not be possible without the volunteer leadership of several groups:
 - The Steering Committee, led by David Hartnett
 - The Board of Advisors, led by Ann Cramer
 - and The Operational committees:
 - The Communications Team, led by David Terraso
 - The Expo Task force, led by Monya Ruffin, and
 - The K-12 Task Force, led by Adrian Epps and Karol Stephens
- Atlanta has been a growing science and technology corridor. This festival is the first citywide event with that history — and future — in mind, with a clear goal of making science programming exciting and accessible to every resident.
- The Atlanta Science Festival envisions a community of scientifically literate citizens and a strong Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, or STEM workforce in Atlanta. That vision begins with efforts to engage our youth in STEM learning inside and outside the classroom.
- Atlanta's Festival is part of a national movement. We're part of the Science Festival Alliance and join select cities across the country to support the mission of fostering a professional community dedicated to more and better science and technology festivals.
- I serve as a member of the National Science Board. Our research tells us that for America to compete globally, we need to get more young people interested in

career opportunities in math and science fields, and, we need to start early.

Because of the way the curriculum builds, students need to know before they reach high school that they want to explore a STEM field.

- The Atlanta Science Festival is yet another way that we can help young people catch a vision for what they could do in a STEM field.
- The collaboration taking place among partnering institutions makes the Atlanta Science Festival truly unique—all Atlanta Science Festival events are collaborative in some fashion. Organizations are working together in new and exciting ways—maximizing resources and forming new relationships.
- These events that begin in just a few days would not be possible without all of you. Thank you for your vision and your commitment for what we hope will be the first of many science festivals for the metro area for years to come.