

**Dr. Peterson**

**SR 68 Committee, TAG Legislative Roundtable**

8-8:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, 2011, GTRI Conference Center

- Thank you for selecting Georgia Tech's applied research arm, GTRI, as your venue for the final meeting of this important discussion. We extend a special welcome to the Commissioners and sponsors.
- For six years, Georgia Tech has hosted this Legislative Roundtable to engage legislators with the scientists and technologists on topics of public policy importance. If you attended last year's event, the theme was the need for a strategic plan for science and technology in Georgia. A few short months later, this Commission was created via Senate Resolution 68 for that very purpose.
- Members of the Commission are to be commended. I would like to take a moment to thank the people from Georgia Tech who have been involved, including Steve Cross, who is serving as a commissioner, representing the University System of Georgia and the Board of Regents. Also Marlit Hayslett from GTRI has provided staff support to the commission, as has Terry Durden from the University System of Georgia's Office of Economic Development Office. Since July 20, the Commission has
  - Conducted 7 public hearings in six cities around Georgia.
  - Heard from over 75 panelists on science and technology topics such as health IT, commercial space, STEM education, agricultural technology, and data centers.
  - Held over 10 subcommittee meetings and conference calls.
  - Received more than 200 recommendations on how to build Georgia's future in S&T policy.
- Today we are convened to hear the results of their work, and involve you in making some tough decisions about what the priorities should be.
- We at Georgia Tech are glad to have a role in the effort, and will continue to be available to help in any areas that are needed. As I understand it, members of

our faculty have testified before you on several occasions, across a variety of topics such as logistics, economic development and advanced materials.

- We are grateful for the time investment and thorough research of the Commission, and are looking forward to their recommendations in STEM education, workforce development, access to capital, alignment and balance across our various private and public sector initiative, and even the future of high performance computing and data centers.
- The best thinking of experts throughout the state and thorough research can now be taken a step further to the development of a science and technology strategic plan. The plan is vital to success. When I arrived at Georgia Tech almost three years ago, the first task on my agenda was to bring together the Georgia Tech community in the development of a 25-year strategic plan for the Institute. One year later, we launched the plan that included input from hundreds within the Tech community as well as leaders in civic and government organizations. While it seems a daunting task, I want to encourage you and let you know that new strategic plans, carefully followed and implemented, bear fruit. We've begun the implementation phase of our plan. We have five main goals and numerous strategies within those goals. Those specific strategies will evolve to reflect the times and changing needs. I'm proud that actions Georgia Tech has taken to accelerate the formation of start-ups, which resulted from a task force under our strategic plan, were referenced by the VC community when they testified to you during one of the hearings. I suggest that it is significant for your report and for our state that private investment in the companies formed in the past fiscal year from Georgia Tech generated \$100M in private investment and created 513 new jobs.
- The strategic plan that you will undertake can be a vital component for the State of Georgia's economic competitiveness.
- Looking ahead, I challenge us to have a strategic plan for S&T in Georgia for our event next year. Thank you.