

## Notes from the President

Georgia Institute of Technology

G.P. “Bud” Peterson, President

Celebrating International Education Week at Georgia Institute of

Technology: A Global University

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Over the past decade, Georgia Tech has grown into one of the most global research universities in the nation. Fifty-four percent of our B.S. degree recipients have an international experience prior to graduation, compared to a national average of less than 10 percent. This past year alone, our undergraduates studied at our campus

in Lorraine, France, as well as in 57 other countries throughout the world.

The overall student body attracts students from 127 countries. This diverse group of students contributes to the Institute in countless ways. They participate in our graduate and undergraduate programs, work as research and teaching assistants, are innovators and entrepreneurs, and serve in countless leadership roles across the Institute.

Universities occupy a special place in our American culture. They are a place where new ideas are incubated, where unique perspectives are openly and freely exchanged, and where many societal changes are spawned. Differences are honored as we celebrate the breadth of the diversity of the ideas, backgrounds, cultures, ethnicities, traditions, and perspectives that these students bring to us here at Georgia Tech.

I am particularly proud of the Georgia Tech community for its broad global perspective, and also for striving to maintain an inclusive environment in large and small ways. For example, since 2014 the Student Government Association has coordinated “A Home for the Holidays,” a program that matches international students with other members of the Georgia Tech community for the Thanksgiving holiday. Students, faculty, and staff are welcoming international students into their homes for a traditional Thanksgiving meal. The world becomes a little smaller, and better understood, while sitting around the dining room table together.

I want to take this opportunity during “International Education Week” to thank all of our international students for sharing their talents and their cultures with us here at Georgia Tech — you are an important and integral part of our community. As such, you help us see the world through a different lens, both broadening our perspectives and enriching our lives while you are

here with us. Once you graduate, I know you will serve as lifetime ambassadors for Georgia Tech, both in the U.S. and in the 133 countries around the globe where our alumni live and work. Thank you!

When thinking about our global perspective here at Georgia Tech, “Go Jackets” is more than a cheer; it is an imperative to make a world of difference.

***G.P. "Bud" Peterson***