

**What:** RETP Breakfast

**Purpose:** The main purpose of the meeting is to give students from the 8 RETP schools the opportunity to visit Georgia Tech, get information about our programs, and tour the campus.

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

**Where:** Gordy, Wardlaw

**Who:** Potential transfer students, RETP coordinators plus other faculty from the RETP schools, and Georgia Tech RETP students.

**Your role:** In the past, a representative from the Chancellor's Office has welcomed everyone. This year no one from the Chancellor's Office is attending, so you are being asked to provide the official welcome.

Good morning. It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Benjamin Disraeli once defined a university as a “place of light, of liberty, and of learning.”

When I think of his quote, I am very proud of Georgia Tech's status as one of Georgia's six public universities.

Abbott Lawrence Lowell however, described a university quite differently. He once said that, “universities are full of knowledge; the freshmen bring a little in and the seniors take away none at all, and the knowledge accumulates.”

When I think of that quote, I am glad we are known as the Georgia **Institute** of Technology.

Our name is one of the many things that is unique about Georgia Tech. We are also Georgia's sole engineering university as well as the only college in Georgia—or the world for that matter—to host two Olympic venues and serve as the site of an Olympic Village.

The Olympic Games and the Regents Engineering Transfer Program actually have much in common. Both represent partnerships between entities that are traditionally more known for competition. Both create a better whole than the sum of their parts. And success for both depends on the energy, hard work, and talents of its participants.

Georgia Tech is proud to participate in both the Olympic Games and RETP. I believe we will see more of this type of collaboration in the future—as we all benefit from such partnerships. For Georgia Tech, RETP represents an opportunity for us to work with other universities in Georgia’s university system. In addition, it allows us to attract high-quality students from Georgia that might not otherwise choose us.

Those of you who are RETP students are able to almost customize your education. You can start out at a school close to home or a smaller school then transfer to Georgia Tech and graduate with a degree recognized throughout the U.S.

For all, it is definitely a win/win situation.

I’ve yet to meet one RETP student who has regretted his or her transfer. In fact, the comment I most often hear from RETP students is that Georgia Tech isn’t as hard as they thought it would be.

Although not as hard as it is perceived, Georgia Tech’s College of Engineering is without a doubt the best in the state. All of our engineering programs are ranked within the top 20 according to *U.S. News and World Report*. Many programs including our civil, electrical, aerospace, and mechanical engineering

programs are within the top 10. Our undergraduate as well as graduate industrial and systems engineering program is ranked number one.

Overall, the undergraduate programs offered in our College of Engineering are ranked third in the nation.

Rankings like this as well as our recognized commitment to excellence help bring top-notch faculty to our campus. These faculty, in turn, help attract high-quality students such as yourselves. Students who come to Tech because they are looking for the best educational experience available.

Of course, there's more to a campus than books and study. And at Georgia Tech, you'll find an all-around educational experience; we have a strong Greek system, intramurals, and hundreds of clubs and other extracurricular activities to choose from. Many RETP students are surprised at the extent of options on the Tech campus—and fear that fun will be overshadowed by constant work and study.

If that's one of your concerns, I think you'll be pleasantly surprised. I was a student here myself and found plenty of time for both work and play. Several of our current RETP students are here this morning—and since they attended a little more currently than myself—you may want to take some time to talk to them about what Georgia Tech is actually like.

As you'll see during your tours, we are a campus under construction. There are two reasons for this construction—the short-term reason and the long version. The short term reason is, of course, the Olympics.

The long-term reason is more important. After the Olympians have packed up their medals and gone home to their respective countries, our students will move back in. Awaiting them will be an Olympic legacy of improved and new housing; a world-class Aquatic Center; a re-created Coliseum; and FutureNet, a state-of-the-art telecommunications network.

Our students are already taking advantage of much of this infrastructure, but I don't think we will realize the full benefit until after the construction crews and the Olympic athletes have left the campus.

The father of the modern Olympics Baron Pierre de Coubertin once said: "The most important thing in the Olympics is not winning, but taking part."

Georgia Tech has done more than simply take part in the Olympics—and generations of students will be the winners. Our students will benefit not only from Georgia Tech's enhanced international reputation, but also from the opportunity to live in the student-friendly environment that was created in the short term for Olympic athletes—but with the long-term comfort of our students in mind.

To conclude, I'd like to say thank you for your attention. I look forward to seeing many of you here next year.