

Dr. Peterson

Interview with Diane Loupe, *Atlanta Business Chronicle*

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Research universities play a key role in regional economic ecosystems, which are vital to economic development. They attract business and industry, partner in research, help to get innovations from the lab to the marketplace and educate students who often become the intellectual talent that business and industry seeks. Example: Smart Grid Challenge in which Georgia Tech supports a venue where student teams compete to explore disruptive concepts.

Industry also wants access to new technology and innovations, sometimes through direct support in research, sometimes through their investment in the companies we help create and nurture, and sometimes in direct services provided to them.

Growing next generation companies through our startup acceleration programs: Georgia Tech Integrated Program for Startups (GT:IPS) and Flashpoint, also Innovation Corps.

Tech Square, a part of Georgia Tech's 400-acre campus, was developed 10 years ago. The mixed-use area is a testament to what is possible through a partnership between higher education, the state, and business and industry.

Tech partners with the Georgia Department of Economic Development, headquartered in Tech Square, to attract new business and industry to the state. Last May, Panasonic announced its new auto innovation center in Centergy One in Tech Square, creating an incubator for next generation automotive infotainment technologies. A driving factor was the company's interest in enhancing its partnership with Georgia Tech, including the Enterprise Innovation Institute, or EI₂, Tech's economic development center headquartered in Tech Square. The Centergy building is home to numerous high-tech companies, and several other companies and organizations are

exploring having a presence in Tech Square. It is home to the Technology Association of Georgia.

Companies benefit from Tech's School of Interactive Computing located in Tech Square, as well as the schools of Computer Science and Computational Science and Engineering in the College of Computing. They also capitalize on expertise from the Ernest Scheller Jr. College of Business, also in Tech Square. Technology Square in the heart of Midtown Atlanta is bringing together needed resources, expertise and opportunities for collaboration that creates an exciting environment for innovation to flourish.

Also, North Avenue Research Area (CNES and GTRI Food Processing Technology Building as examples); Technology Enterprise Park.

When we align universities with economic development, everyone wins. It benefits companies, the state's economy, citizens, faculty, and it benefits students, who have an opportunity to contribute to innovations where they're still in school, as well to graduate with the experience that business and industry is looking for. We are committed to working with industry to support their research and innovation goals, as with the state to continue to attract and retain business and industry, fostering an environment where innovation and new discoveries flourish, creating jobs and growing our economy.