Georgia Tech creates Enterprise Innovation Institute

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Georgia Tech has launched a new program to help local businesses and communities become more competitive through the application of science, technology and innovation.

Georgia Tech’s new Enterprise Innovation Institute, a sweeping restructuring of the university’s economic development and business assistance programs and the launch of several new initiatives, was announced today by Provost Jean-Lou Hodges.

"The future viability of local, state and national economies will depend largely on their ability to successfully apply science, technology and innovation to their core businesses," said Provost Hodges.

The restructuring brings new and existing programs together into four primary units organized by customer focus: Industry Services, which focuses on helping industry, economic developers and communities become more competitive through the application of science, technology and innovation.

Creation of the Enterprise Innovation Institute represents the first major reorganization of Georgia Tech’s economic development and business assistance programs since the Economic Development Institute (EDI) was formed in 1993. The Enterprise Innovation Institute will replace EDI and Tech’s former Office of Economic Development and Technology Ventures, including the Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC) business incubator, VentureLab commercialization effort, Commercialization Services Initiative and former Economic Development Institute.

"Bringing together Georgia Tech’s economic development and business assistance programs will give us a powerful tool to help our state and local businesses meet the challenges ahead," Hodges said.

"Comprehensive assistance" Underlying the challenges facing Georgia companies, the 2005 Georgia Manufacturing Survey found that 10 percent of the state’s manufacturers had lost business to international outsourcing between 2002 and 2004. A more hopeful finding was that companies relying on innovation for a competitive edge enjoyed larger sales margins, paid higher wages and had less fear from outsourcing.

"The new Enterprise Innovation Institute provides services through a single office organized by customer group," Hodges said. "Industry Services, which focuses on industrial customers around the state..."
Computing gets $1.5 million commitment for endowed chair

The College of Computing has announced that it will appoint an international computational expert Henrik Christensen to the newly endowed Georgia Tech Chair of Robotics. A professor of computer science, Christensen will be committed to the position on behalf of a $1.5 million grant from KUKA Robotics Corporation. “Professors like Henrik Christensen are critical to the future success of our faculty and our students,” said the College’s position on sustainability, and the Georgia Tech Chair of Robotics.

Christensen brings an impeccable reputation in robotics research. As the founding chairman of the European Robotics Research Network, he will work closely with faculty to further enrich the robotic curricula, said Zinn.

He is also director of the NASA University Research Technology Education (URET) Center for Aeronautics and Power based in Georgia Tech. His research is aimed at improving aircraft engine technologies. “The contributions of fun times over a four-day-to-five-day period, the project will offer both undergraduates and doctoral programs tailored to best enable students to understand and drive the future role of robotics in society and industry.”

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Nikolaos Rokos, chair of the Robotics program, said Christensen will “not only bring incredible expertise to the Robotics program, but also very significant industry connections. His work on cognitive robotics research and long-term planning of the Robotics program are critical in order to achieve the College’s goals.”

The College of Computing at Georgia Tech is dedicated to building tomorrow’s leaders in computer science and other related fields. As a part of the agreement, the Georgia Tech robotics program will offer both undergraduate and doctoral programs tailored to best enable students to understand and drive the future role of robotics in industry.

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