

# **GWC' Slide Script**

In the last few years, we began laying the foundation for future success. Our endeavors include: **(CLICK HERE—FIRST SLIDE UP.)**

**SLIDE ONE**—read title, then say:

Constructing our vision was an important step for us—as it was the first move toward defining our strategic direction. The Vision states: (read from slide)

“Georgia Tech will be a leader among those few technological universities whose students, alumni, faculty, and staff define and expand the frontiers of knowledge and innovation. Georgia Tech seeks to create an enriched, more prosperous, and sustainable society for the citizens of Georgia, the nation, and the world.”

Other steps we’ve taken to build a strong foundation include:

**(CLICK ON SLIDE TWO)**

**SLIDE TWO**

- Our vision
  - Completing our strategic plan
  - Re-engineering administrative structure and processes
  - Creating the leadership team
  - Making Olympic “chaos” manageable
- And
- Building the resource base

As you can see, we've been busy. But the steps we've taken to lay the groundwork for a successful future actually aren't what I'd point to as the most vital accomplishments of the last two years. More importantly, we've defined the challenges facing us—as well as the opportunities.

First, I'd like to take a brief moment to address the challenges. Those facing us include:

**(CLICK ON SLIDE THREE)**

**SLIDE THREE**

- Diminishing federal funding
- The Olympics
- Campus safety
- Facilities funding

And

- Increased out-of-state tuition

Another challenge lies in continuing to build our talent base—therefore increasing our prestige.

**(CLICK ON SLIDE FOUR)**

**SLIDE FOUR**

With that in mind, I'd like you to take a look at the following chart depicting a comparison between National Academy of Engineering members at Tech and at other comparable universities. As you can see, we're ranked pretty highly. However, you should also note, there is vast room for improvement.

**(CLICK ON SLIDE FIVE)**

**SLIDE FIVE**

There is even more room for improvement with regard to National Academy of Sciences members. I won't say the name out loud, but there's one school on that list, I'd like to catch up to and pass very quickly.

In order for us to be accepted one of the nation's best universities, we must bring our memberships in these national organizations up.

Counterbalancing the challenges facing us are our competitive advantages. Benefits such as:

**(CLICK ON SLIDE SIX)**

**SLIDE SIX**

- Our growing reputation
- Strong student demand
- Positive state support
- Olympic legacies

And

- Our location in Atlanta

In fact, when those advantages are seriously considered, it leads to one inescapable conclusion:

(pause)

That this is the time for Georgia Tech. Our obstacles are within our grasp. Our opportunities, reputation, and strength as an institute are unprecedented.

Our time has come.

I don't expect—or want you to take my word for it. Let me break down the advantages I just mentioned:

**(CLICK ON SLIDE SEVEN)**

**SLIDE SEVEN**

I'll start with rankings. Thirty years ago we were considered a strong, regional school. Today, we're in the top-tier of national rankings. We're one of only 15 public institutions in the top 50, our academic reputation is 27th when both publics and privates are considered, and 15 of our colleges, schools, and programs rank within the top 20.

In March of this year, even Rolling Stone Magazine listed us among the nation's 15 best buys in higher education in an article with the memorable front-cover teaser of: "Cheap Schools! Real Jobs! Rock and Roll!"

**CLICK ON SLIDE EIGHT**

## **SLIDE EIGHT**

As you can see, word about Georgia Tech is getting out. In fact, evidence of our progress and increased academic prestige can be found in the strengthening of the applications we receive each year.

## **CLICK ON SLIDE NINE**

Likewise, state support levels have given us cause to celebrate.

## **CLICK ON SLIDE TEN**

Our Olympic legacies are also tangible evidence of our strengths and the advantages we possess. From our Aquatic Center (**CLICK ON SLIDE ELEVEN**)

## **SLIDE ELEVEN**

to our brand-new residence halls to the Olympic Plaza, we've certainly made great strides toward a better collegiate environment for our students.

## **CLICK ON SLIDE TWELVE**

## **SLIDE TWELVE**

Further Olympic legacies include:

- Recreated Techwood/Clark Howell homes
- FutureNet
- Media exposure during Olympics/Paralympics

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." (PAUSE)

Georgia Tech has done more than simply take part in the Olympics—and generations of students will be the winners.

### **SLIDE THIRTEEN**

And, last, our location in Atlanta is also an advantage. Atlanta is metropolitan, fast-paced, and energetic—a perfect foil for Georgia's only technological university.

As you can see Georgia Tech has built a durable foundation. Today, we're stronger than ever before and face opportunities unparalleled in our past.

However, if we do not move quickly to take advantage of our progress, overcome our challenges, and maximize our opportunities, the window will close in our faces. Together, following the shared vision and the strategic plan, we must work hard—and work together to make the most of this unprecedented opportunity. The whole campus community must come together in this quest.

As we begin our quest, I would like you to offer two quotes. The first reinforces the idea that today is Georgia Tech's moment in history. The second is one that has given me much comfort over the years.

**CLICK ON SLIDE THIRTEEN**

“There is always one moment...when the door opens and lets the future in.”

Graham Greene

**LIGHTS COME UP. (YOU DON'T HAVE TO ASK THE LIGHTING CREW FROM THE CENTER OF THE ARTS WILL ARRANGE IT.)**