

What: Specialty Separations Symposium
Length: 2 minutes
Purpose: Welcome sponsors and potential sponsors
Audience: Industry sponsors and potential sponsors

Good morning. On behalf of Georgia Tech, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Georgia Tech and today's event, the Specialty Separations Center Symposium.

Today's symposium would not be possible without partnership. Specifically the partnership between the Specialty Separation Center and its industry partners.

This type of collaboration—between industry and higher education—is widespread at Georgia Tech. There are more than 63 interdisciplinary research centers on the campus—all of which enjoy some degree of industry interaction.

The Specialty Separations Center is typical of the type of research partnerships we have on campus. The Center includes 11 faculty members from five different academic units: the Schools of Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, and Biology, the Georgia Tech Research Institute; and the Institute for Paper Science and Technology. Our researchers are dedicated, talented, and creative—and willing to go the extra mile to benefit industry partners.

Across the campus, in order to continue serving industry to the best of our ability, we've recently initiated a process to look at improving the way we do business with industry. For example, we've begun asking our industry partners: "How well do we serve your needs?"

So far, the answer seems to be that we're doing a good job.

But, that we can certainly do better.

Based on answers received from more than 20 of our industry partners, we have begun work to clarify intellectual property policy issues as well as issues with publishing rights.

On the positive side, our rankings show that industry holds us in high esteem. We are ranked number six in the country for industry-sponsored research.

Perhaps even more important than rankings is the fact that 30 percent of Georgia Tech's research funding comes from industry. In light of the expected downsizing of the federal government, that's good news.

Also good news is that we do not limit our partnerships to just one-on-one relationships with different industry partners. Our collaborations extend to the state and national level. One such example is the Georgia Research Alliance—a statewide partnership between business, government, and higher education—designed to create science and technology-driven economic development. The Georgia Research Alliance is perhaps the best illustration in Georgia of the ways in which academic science can be strongly linked with the industrial development of the state. On the national level, our participation in the National Council on Competitiveness, our work with House and Senate leaders, and our participation in various specialty societies are other examples.

As you can see, collaboration with industry is important to

Georgia Tech. In fact, we believe continued collaboration with industry is a key to our future success as a university.

Likewise, continued collaboration is good for industry. From the insights you gain from our senior researchers to the ability to network with those within your industry to the research generated here at Georgia Tech, you greatly benefit.

In conclusion, in a world where the odds are greater that you'll get mugged than win the lottery, win-win situations like the collaborations between business and higher education are few and far between.

At Georgia Tech, we plan to make the most of this opportunity.

For that reason, I am especially pleased to see all of you here today and I look forward to hearing more of your continued collaborative efforts with Georgia Tech.

Thank you.