Move to Technology Square

This summer and fall, several Georgia Tech groups moved to Technology Square, the Institute’s new campus in midtown Atlanta. Centered on Fifth Street, the complex provides state-of-the-art facilities and combines education, research and economic development activities that will help Georgia Tech expand its outreach.

Among units in Technology Square:
- Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC), Georgia Tech’s incubator that helps entrepreneurs launch and build technology companies.
- Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development, a research center focusing on smart growth and sustainable development.
- DuPree College of Management, Georgia Tech’s business school.
- Economic Development Institute (EDI), which helps grow Georgia’s economy through technology-driven solutions for the state’s businesses, communities and economic developers.
- Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center.
- Georgia Tech VentureLab, a one-stop center that helps faculty commercialize research innovations.
- Global Learning Center, Georgia Tech’s professional and continuing education center.
- Graphics, Visualization and Usability Center (GVU), a research center that advances the interaction of people, computers and information.

Students cross Spring Street in front of the Barnes & Noble bookstore in Technology Square. In the background is the Economic Development Building.

adjoins the new Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center, it’s easy for business, community and economic development groups to visit EDI offices.

Taking advantage of its new accessibility, EDI is dedicating ground-floor space to an exhibition area, open to the public, which will feature displays illustrating EDI’s influence on companies and communities across Georgia.

For ATDC, the relocation provides space that’s more conducive to its networking and educational activities, encouraging member companies to interact and help one another. Instead of occupying six floors in two buildings, entrepreneurs now are located mainly on one floor of a single building.

The third floor of ATDC’s building houses the new Georgia Tech Venture Center (GTVC), hosting groups that benefit ATDC members, conduct collaborative research with Georgia Tech or help meet Georgia’s economic development goals. GTVC tenants will include:
- Industry groups, such as the Technology Association of Georgia (TAG).
- Attorneys, accountants, investors and others who focus on technology entrepreneurs.
- “Landing parties” formed by established companies either locating in Georgia or spinning off new divisions here.

Georgia Tech will celebrate the new facilities with a grand opening during the third week of October. EDI and ATDC will be part of activities that culminate in a “Technology Square Street Party” on Friday, October 24. For information about that week’s events, please visit www.edtv.gatech.edu/techsquare/.

www.edtv.gatech.edu

Having these service-oriented units together will expand collaboration and help advance their respective missions.

One of Georgia Tech’s most active outreach groups, EDI gains increased visibility and easier access from the relocation. Limited parking and an isolated location at EDI’s former headquarters limited interaction. But at Technology Square, where EDI
Better Environmental Management

Georgia Tech’s Economic Development Institute houses one of eight local resource centers for environmental management systems (EMS) established nationwide by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to help public entities—from city halls to water treatment plants—adopt best practices in environmental performance. Ongoing assistance from the year-old center (called PEER LRC) to the Georgia Department of Corrections (DoC) indicates some promising results:

- Recycling efforts at Hancock State Prison in Sparta could divert an annual 25 tons of solid waste from area landfills, and improved water efficiency could save a projected $4,500 per year.
- Baldwin State Prison in Milledgeville could save an estimated annual $22,500 by utilizing energy-efficient lighting and reducing emissions of some 325 tons of sulfur dioxide and other gases each year.

EDI’s work for DoC is occurring in conjunction with the Georgia Environmental Partnership, an alliance of Georgia Tech, the University of Georgia and the state Pollution Prevention Assistance Division.

800/859-0968  www.edi.gatech.edu/environment

Going by Trane

When a Vidalia air-conditioning manufacturer wanted to expand its facilities to bring in a second product line, it called on Georgia Tech’s Economic Development Institute (EDI) for assistance. EDI engineers met with Trane management as well as the local chamber of commerce and development authority to develop options for a new location and suggest means of addressing an accessibility issue at the adjacent spec building.

EDI staff also did a local impact analysis necessary for obtaining OneGeorgia grant funds, and Tech’s School of Civil and Environmental Engineering was called on for help with a water leakage problem with the spec building.

Trane eventually leased to purchase the 60,000-square-foot spec building, and with expansion and related growth expects to create 100 jobs and boost plant productivity. Already the expansion has meant 60 new jobs and an investment of $1 million.

Tattnall Takes Off

Through sponsorship of the Georgia Rural Economic Development Center, Georgia Tech’s Economic Development Institute (EDI) conducted a strategic opportunities assessment for Tattnall County. That effort resulted in six initiatives county citizens and leaders are undertaking as part of a strategic plan for economic development. An additional result has been the community’s selection as a pilot for EDI’s Strategic Planning Accelerator Program, which provides technical assistance to community leaders during the start-up phase of their new strategic planning process.

www.edi.gatech.edu/articles/articlesans.cfm?ID=133

Around the State

- Georgia’s Lake Country, an alliance of Putnam, Greene and Morgan counties, asked EDI to assess its tourism development potential. Following one recommendation, the group already has decided to stage a festival this fall, with an estimated budget of $240,000. The research also was instrumental in the group receiving $30,000 in cooperative advertising funds from the state.

- In Augusta, a chemicals manufacturer sought assistance with information technology to increase the plant’s efficiency and productivity. EDI regional staff developed a software system to track inventory for one of PQ Corporation’s product lines. To date, the firm has saved more than $40,000 annually and improved its inventory traceability 100 percent.

- The EDI northwest region’s Quality Network meeting in August drew a record attendance of 57 people from 18 companies. The region’s monthly meetings typically address quality-related issues and management topics for area manufacturers, and rotate among Dalton, Rome and Cartersville.

Georgia Tech’s Regional Office Network

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