University Seed Funds in Georgia

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Seed Funding in Georgia

- GRA Eminent Scholar recruitment
- GRA Phase Zero grants
- GRA University-Industry Collaboration Grants
- GRA Phase I grants
- GRA Phase II grants
- GT Innovation Fund
- GRA/TAG business launch competition
- SBIR Assistance Program
- GRA Phase III loans
- Georgia Seed Capital Fund
- Georgia Centers of Innovation
Building an Ecosystem

- Nutrients
- Growth
- Incubation
- Renewal
- Natural Selection
- Signs of Life
Nutrients

• Georgia Research Alliance (GRA)
  – Eminent Scholars
  – Facilities/equipment

• Recruiting research talent—worldwide
  – Annual budget averaging above $20M/year since 1990

• 54 Eminent Scholars, 18 national centers of research excellence, 125 companies created
Signs of Life

- Emphasis on interdisciplinary research
- Research centers
  - Over 100 on Georgia Tech campus, from textiles to nanoscience
- GRA Phase Zero grants to labs
  - Up to $10K/project
- University-Industry Collaboration Awards
Natural Selection

- VentureLab
  - Business plan
  - Management
  - Money

- GRA Phase I awards
  - Up to $50K to lab for commercialization

- GRA Phase II awards
  - Up to $100K to lab, but must be matched by company resources
VentureLab

• Founded Sept 2001 — a model for other universities
  – Faculty-focused process
  – Risk identification and mitigation for venture-backable innovations

• Money
  – Pre-seed funding available through the Georgia Research Alliance
  – Access to wide network of professional venture firms

• Management
  – Matching opportunities with skilled and experienced managers

Goal: Successful startup companies based on Georgia Tech research
• GT Innovation Fund
  – Small fund managed inside Georgia Tech
  – *Target:* $100K seed investments for GT-related startups
  – Based on charitable gifts from donors, *not* investments from limited partners
  – Reinvest profits in “evergreen” cycle
Natural Selection (3)

- GRA Business Launch Competition
  - First prize of $100K cash, $150K in professional services
  - Targeted technologies
- SBIR Assistance Program
  - Statewide $16M in Federal awards in 2006
Incubation

- ATDC
- GRA Phase III loans
  - Up to $250K loan to company based on successful exit from laboratory
- Ga. Seed Capital Fund
  - $18M equity fund
  - Must be matched 3:1 by private investors
  - 20 companies to date (9 biotech), over 200 private co-investors
Incubation (2)

- Georgia Centers of Innovation
  - Statewide technology areas
    - Logistics in Savannah, etc.
  - Up to $1M in grants per project
  - Targeting rural counties with high poverty rates
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“Virtually every combination of industry relationship or economic development activity can be found at Georgia Tech, and in a very real sense, the university is an operating partner with Georgia state government in the implementation and management of a variety of technology-focused initiatives. **Perhaps more than any other research university in North America, economic development is an integral, critical component of the mission of the Georgia Institute of Technology**, and this has been true from its very inception.”

– *Southern Growth Policies Board, 2002*
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