

Dr. Peterson
CeGP Workshop

9 a.m. Monday, June 17, 2013, Centergy 1, Tech Square, 5th Floor

Welcome to Atlanta, and to the Georgia Tech campus. We are especially delighted to have our honored guests with us today from KFUPM. Representatives from Georgia Tech participated in a very successful workshop at your campus in December, and our hope is that this one will be just as successful. We're also looking forward to the next workshop, scheduled for January 2014 in Dhahran.

The two institutions have worked together to accomplish a great deal in just the 10 months since we signed our agreement. We have started the Introduction to Electrical Engineering project, and are planning several research and education projects together, with some to begin as soon as August.

Students from both campuses are benefiting from our partnership as well. For the past three years, we have been privileged to host about 20 3rd and 4th year KFUPM students each fall who study electrical engineering and other areas. We're looking forward to another group this fall, and I understand they will even participate in an outdoor leadership program coordinated through our campus recreation center.

Georgia Tech enjoys a strong relationship with U.S. industry, and it is a natural next step for The Center for Energy and Geo Processing to build bridges with oil and energy companies in the United States, and in the process gain valuable insight from these industries. I understand that we have several representatives from oil and energy companies with us here today, and we would like to extend a special welcome to you as well.

Our Provost, Dr. Rafael Bras, participated in a panel discussion last April on the KFUPM campus on the Road from Basic Research to Commercialization. Research universities play a key role in regional economic ecosystems. They attract business

and industry, partner in research, help to get innovations from the lab to the marketplace, and educate students who often become the intellectual talent that business and industry seeks. The venue today is a good example.

Your workshop today is in the middle of Tech Square, where Georgia Tech is taking a leading role to create what we call an Innovation Zone. What was a blighted location just ten years ago is now fast becoming the center of the entrepreneurial community in the Southeast. The mixed-use area is a testament to what is possible through a partnership between higher education, the state of Georgia, and business and industry. (NSF I-Corps, Penguin Computing, Panasonic examples).

Again, welcome to Georgia Tech. We have already gained a great deal of momentum in our joint research and education projects this year, and look forward to even greater collaborations in the future.