

**Dr. Peterson**

**Charitable Campaign Celebration**

3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, 2015, Student Success Center, President's Suites

Good afternoon. It's good to be here with you today to celebrate what turned out to be one of the most successful Charitable Campaigns we've ever had at Georgia Tech. We appreciate your ongoing commitment. You've all done a tremendous job, just as you do every year.

Thanks to your good work,

- The Campaign raised almost \$366,000, nearly \$36,000 more than the goal of \$330,000.
- A total of 1,361 Georgia Tech people participated between Sept. 1 and Nov. 14, 2014, giving an average of about \$269 per donor.
- One out of six Georgia Tech employees contributed.
- A total of 434 charities were designated to receive support during 2015 from your efforts.

We're grateful for our Georgia Tech Charitable Campaign leadership group, who worked tirelessly to organize the campaign and keep it moving forward: LaJauna Ellis, chair; Joseph Hughes, co-chair for Operations; and Leanne West and Shatanese Reese, who were co-chairs for Ambassadors.

They had a strong 7-member support team from around the campus, and of course there were the 124 ambassadors who were on the ground in the various units. It took a tremendous amount of work, above and beyond what you all do in your normal duties at Georgia Tech. What a great team! Let's give each other a hand!

Two of our units had 100% participation, which is a wonderful feat. They were Government & Community Relations, and the Georgia Tech Foundation. I think that also deserves a round of applause!

Although we're very focused here on our academic and research missions, we don't operate in a vacuum. The theme of this year's campaign — "Looking Forward, Giving Back" — is a fitting one. As an institution, looking forward is embedded into our DNA. Giving to the community through both our resources and service is also a long-standing practice at Georgia Tech. Our success is intertwined with the city, state and nation in which we reside. We are very grateful to the faculty, staff, retirees, and students, who all participated. Thank you for your generosity and your commitment.

Like you, Val and I are committed to giving back to the community. One way that we all have an immediate impact is through participation in the State Charitable Campaign, which helps more than a thousand nonprofit local, statewide and international organizations.

Last fall, Georgia Tech was awarded the Governor's Cup for the seventh consecutive year and the 12th time overall for the highest contribution per employee or retiree. We hope to make it eight years in a row after this great Campaign performance. However, the real prize is not the amount of individual contributions, but in the cumulative effect we have by joining together. It's so impressive to see the special spirit of the people of Georgia Tech who are involved in numerous charitable and civic activities in their communities, and have a commitment to make the world a better place.

Your effort is part of a larger campaign. Donors had the choice of pledging to 1,000 charities in the State Charitable Contributions Plan that ended in November, and more than 130,000 state employees were eligible to participate. More than \$1.47 million was pledged across the state to support local and nationwide charities. Thanks to our hard-working, committed ambassadors, Georgia Tech's contributions have played a significant role in the SCCP's overall success.

Community organizations are on the front lines dealing with many of the issues that affect our society. The work you have done on their behalf makes us proud and reflects

very well on Georgia Tech. The Charitable Contributions program includes hundreds of very worthy causes, and, together, you have made a real difference in the lives of Georgia's people in our state. Thank you for your leadership in this worthwhile cause.