Governor Supports GT Legislative Priorities

GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Governor Nathan Deal expressed his support for Georgia Tech in his second State of the State Address and in his subsequent budget recommendations that were released last week. In his proposals, the governor included the Institute’s top legislative priority: $59 million in bonds for the construction of the Engineered Biosystems Building (EBB) on the Georgia Tech campus. The Governor’s total budget is $19.2 billion and includes $113.8 million in new formula funds for the University System of Georgia and $45 million for repair and rehabilitation of facilities on System campuses throughout Georgia.

The proposed budget shows a slight increase in overall spending to reflect the uptick in the economy. The budget now goes to the General Assembly for consideration.

“We are grateful to the governor for his support of our initiatives,” said Dene Sheheane, Executive Director of Government and Community Relations. “As the economy continues to show improvement, we look forward to working with our state leaders to support Georgia Tech under the Gold Dome.”

During the State of the State Address, the governor revealed his top priorities for session including job creation, justice reform, transportation, tax reform and improved schools. The governor made clear his intention to make Georgia the best state in the nation to do business starting with a qualified and talented workforce.

Review the Governor’s recommendations online at http://tinyurl.GABudgetDocs

From Legislative Network to Capitol Jackets

The GCR team is working to relaunch the Legislative Network as the Capitol Jackets. Along with those changes, the Network News has been renamed as the Capitol Buzz. We hope you enjoy seeing these changes take shape.

Biosystems Funding Among Top Tech Legislative Priorities

AMELIA PAVLIK
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

As the 2012 legislative session begins this month, Georgia Tech’s Office of Government and Community Relations will be focused on conveying Tech’s legislative priorities to Georgia’s leaders.

“Our number one priority for this year is securing $59 million in bonds to fund the construction of the Engineered Biosystems Building (EBB), which will provide 200,000 square feet of multidisciplinary research space,” said Dene Sheheane, executive director of Government and Community Relations. “It’s a facility that will allow for collaboration across campus and across institutions and help provide a competitive advantage for the state.”

If the General Assembly and Governor Nathan Deal approve the funding, Tech will leverage it with $34 million in private philanthropy to build the EBB, which will likely attract nonstate investment and economic development opportunities to the area.

“As the legislature begins to assess last year’s work to save HOPE and future prospects for the scholarship program, we will be at the table to share Tech’s perspective,” Sheheane said. “It’s our goal to ensure that Georgia Tech remains a value for our students.”

Sheheane and his colleagues will also advocate for the following initiatives:

- Secure $102.6 million in new formula funds to be shared by all University System of Georgia (USG) institutions in support of credit hour enrollment growth. “With student populations increasing and no funding increases in 2011, the system needs financial assistance when it comes to these day-to-day operating funds,” Sheheane said.
- Secure $50 million in major repair and rehabilitation funds to be used by all USG institutions to repair aging facilities. “We need more than $100 million at Tech to cover our deferred maintenance needs, so any funds received would be put toward maintaining safe and operable facilities at Tech,” Sheheane added.
- Strengthen support for Tech’s “B-Units.” These units include the Enterprise Innovation Institute and the Georgia Tech Research Institute, which both leverage state funds to attract external investment to the state.

Government and Community Relations staff will also be keeping close tabs on ongoing discussions regarding the HOPE Scholarship.

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Sen. Crane joins GT Delegation

The Georgia Tech Office of Government and Community Relations is proud to welcome Sen. Mike Crane of Newnan as the newest member of the Georgia Tech delegation in the Georgia General Assembly.

According to www.mikecrane-forfense.com, Sen. Crane earned his bachelor’s degree in Industrial Management from Georgia Tech in 1987 after graduating from Stone Mountain High School.

Sen. Crane has spent 30 years in the Atlanta construction industry. He began his experience as a carpenter’s apprentice in his father’s workshop. He slowly built his reputation and skill set, eventually becoming the general manager of an Atlanta area construction company. While managing the company, Sen. Crane and his employees completed over $80 million worth of projects. He eventually started his own construction company, which has had greater than $10 million worth of impact on local economies.

During his career, Sen. Crane has worked in or built some of Atlanta’s most recognizable landmarks, including the downtown Varsity, the CNN Center, Underground Atlanta, Northlake, Southlake, Phipps Plaza, Perimeter, Lenox Mall, the Hard Rock Café, and the Galleria Center.

Over the years, Sen. Crane has had a variety of opportunities to serve many local churches; teaching Sunday school, serving on finance and building committees, working on mission trips, participating in prison ministries, and supporting children’s home outreach programs.

For more information on Sen. Crane, please visit http://tinyurl.com/SenCrane

Georgia Tech Student Day at the Capitol

Several Georgia legislators, President Peterson and over 50 students came together for Georgia Tech Student Day at the Capitol on January 11, 2012. Students and state leaders were able to network before the Senate and House convened for daily business.

GETTIN’ BUZZY CALLS TO ACTION

In this regular section you will find specific ways that you as a Capitol Jackets member can get involved in active advocacy for Georgia Tech.

- The budget now rests in the House Appropriations Committee. This is a wonderful opportunity to mail or fax a handwritten note to your state representative and ask them to support the EBB funding in the House version of the budget.

Find your legislators and their district mailing addresses by visiting www.gov.gatech.edu and selecting “Find Your Legislator” from the “Important Links” on the right. We would appreciate notification of any communication with our state leaders so we can better keep track of our efforts.

For more information on Georgia Tech’s legislative priorities, please visit http://tinyurl.com/GTLegPriorities

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“Thanks to the focus of President Peterson and his Executive Leadership Team, we have been able to forge great relationships with legislative leaders, and we have already been working over the past few months to share our priorities.” Sheheane said. “The impact of Georgia Tech and our other university system institutions is well known at the Capitol, and we will work to continue sharing this story.”

For more information on Georgia Tech’s legislative priorities, please visit http://tinyurl.com/GTLegPriorities

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