



Network News

Office of Government Relations

October 19, 2007

Please make a special effort to join us on **Saturday, November 17** prior to the football game for our annual **Legislative Network Fall Briefing**. We are honored that Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle has accepted our invitation to share his insight about important issues facing the 2008 General Assembly. Also participating in the program will be Tom Daniel, senior vice chancellor for External Affairs for the University System of Georgia, Georgia Tech President Wayne Clough, and perhaps one or two other special guests.

It will also be an opportunity to wish Andrew Harris, the former director of Government Relations, a fond farewell as he leaves Georgia Tech after 17 years at the Institute and 13 years prior to that with state government. Our new director of Government Relations, Dene Sheheane, will be on hand to introduce himself and talk about Georgia Tech's legislative priorities.

The briefing will begin two hours prior to kick-off of the North Carolina game on Saturday, November 17. (An email will be sent to all Network members once game time has been set.) It will take place in the Clary Theatre of the Student Success Center, as in past years. We look forward to seeing you there. Please email: betsy.jackson@gatech.edu if you plan to attend.

Changes in the Government Relations Office

This summer brought a significant change to Georgia Tech's Government Relations Office. Andrew Harris announced that he will retire at the end of 2007 after 30 years of combined service with the state government. We are grateful for his service and will miss his vast knowledge and expertise.

To make sure Georgia Tech is ready for the rapidly approaching start to another legislative session, President Wayne Clough moved forward quickly to hire Dene H. Sheheane (pronounced *she-han*) to lead the Institute's state government relations efforts.

Sheheane is a native Georgian and proud alumnus of Georgia Tech, where he graduated in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in management. He later

completed his MBA at Georgia State University. “As a graduate of Georgia Tech, I am eager to return to campus and serve the Institute that played such a major role in shaping my life,” said Sheheane. “Representing Georgia Tech in the State Capitol will be both an honor and a privilege.”

After working in the governor’s office in the early 1990’s, Sheheane represented Georgia State at the Capitol for 13 years where he served as associate vice president for external affairs. Upon announcing his hiring, President Clough said, “We’re extremely fortunate to have Dene Sheheane represent Georgia Tech in our Government Relations office. Dene has experience supporting educational issues at the chancellor’s office, Board of Regents and state capitol, and has developed strong relationships with our state and federal elected officials.”

Sheheane is currently serving as chairman of the National State Relations Task Force, an organization comprised of higher education government relations professionals from across the country, and is a member of the Acworth (GA) Downtown Development Authority. He resides in Acworth with his wife, Carrie, and their three children.

If you would like to contact Dene Sheheane, please call 404-894-1238 or send an email to sheheane@gatech.edu. Betsy Jackson can be reached by calling the same phone number or sending an email to betsy.jackson@gatech.edu.

Legislative Priorities for 2008 Session

We hope you will be able to join us at the Fall Briefing to learn more about the legislative priorities for this year, but in case you cannot be there, the following is a list you can keep in mind when contacting your legislators.

Innovative Learning Resource Center (ILRC)

Andrew Harris has called the Innovative Learning Resource Center (ILRC) “one of the most important facilities in Georgia Tech history.” During their freshmen and sophomore years, every Georgia Tech student will use this facility several times a week for science laboratory study. When constructed, it will be the hub of campus for undergraduate students by co-locating core academic labs, experiential learning, information technology, instructional technology, and academic support services under one roof. The ILRC will also incorporate the current library and extend to Tech Green. No other building will have such a direct and positive impact on student success. The Board of Regents has included \$50 million in its capital budget request for this \$85 million project. Additional funds will be secured through private, non-state and other sources.

Carry Forward Legislation

The University System of Georgia will work this session for the passage of legislation that will allow the System's 35 schools to carry forward certain funding (such as up to 3 percent of tuition revenues) from one fiscal year to the next. Last year's bill authorizing this did not make it to the House floor in time for approval. This authorization is extremely important to the fiscal health of University System institutions because it will enable them to be better stewards of state funds and enhance long-term planning.

Major Repair and Rehabilitation (MRR)

Gov. Sonny Perdue began the process last year of converting funds for Major Repair and Rehabilitation (MRR) projects from general obligation bonds to cash. One-quarter of last year's MRR funds were in cash while the rest remained in bonds. The University System will work with the governor to continue the process and have half of the MRR funds in bonds and half in cash for the upcoming fiscal year. The overall system request is \$70 million. These funds are used for critical infrastructure repairs and are vital to maintaining and improving the facilities throughout the System.

Thank you

As always, we thank you for your continued interest and involvement in the Legislative Network. Your work on behalf Georgia Tech and the University System is greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing you at the Fall Briefing.