2020 - 2030
RESEARCH NEXT
AT GEORGIA TECH

A Strategy for Accelerating Research That Matters
From the Executive Vice President for Research

As we envision the research enterprise at Georgia Tech over the next 10 years and beyond, its central tenets must be service and connectedness if we are to truly realize the Institute as a leading global engine of innovation, entrepreneurship, and opportunity. With that in mind, we have created Research Next — a strategic plan to accelerate research that matters at Georgia Tech.

We seek to address grand challenges, emerging topics, and requisite methods every day. By tackling these areas, Georgia Tech works to enhance society by fostering discovery through curiosity-driven and mission-driven research. The fruits of our research must also be communicated and transferred to the dinner table, bedside, and marketplace in order to amplify our impact. We know that our role, and that of university research in general, is critically important to the health and vitality of our community, state, region, and world.

Georgia Tech envisions a future in which we continue to educate transformative researchers, strive for inclusive excellence and truth, and leverage our scale and resources to address the most urgent challenges of our time. Research Next is the roadmap that will take us there.

Our plan is people-centered, value-based, and data-informed. Like the Institute’s strategic plan, this belongs to all of us, and it will be up to us to make it a reality.

Chaouki Abdallah
Executive Vice President for Research
Our Purpose

In alignment with Georgia Tech’s strategic plan, Research Next strives to position the Institute to respond to the challenges of the future with innovation, expertise, creativity, and a dedication to improving human lives and the world at large.

Our Mission

To catalyze research and innovation that matters, to improve the human condition.

Our Vision

Inspiring and creating solutions to make the needed a reality, making the impossible possible. Together, we will support the Institute’s mission to amplify impact, champion innovation, connect globally, expand access, cultivate well-being, and lead by example.

Defining the Landscape

To create a research strategy, Georgia Tech faculty, staff, and students assessed the current landscape for research-intensive universities. They identified the internal and external forces and factors that shape the research ecosystem.

An analysis provided insight into future research trends and opportunities, as well as informed perspectives on how best to approach them. The research focus areas include:

- Societal challenges: clean energy, sustainability, climate science, human health, biotechnology, neuroscience.
- Innovation: artificial intelligence, quantum computing, hypersonics technology, advanced manufacturing.

Crosscutting research initiatives that enable Georgia Tech to excel include policy engagement, business creation, entrepreneurship, and the deep integration of humanities, social sciences, and the arts.

Out of this assessment came the Phase 1 report that provides an honest self-examination of the state of research at Georgia Tech and beyond.
Responding to the Challenge

The Commission on Research Next Phase 1 report has allowed Georgia Tech to strategically flex the research enterprise to respond to challenges and look to the decades ahead.

Phase 2 of Research Next created goals aligned with Georgia Tech's strategic plan. It provides the Institute's research roadmap by crystallizing the strategic goals and objectives.

This work is being enabled by a deeper understanding of a broader set of political, scientific, and ethical issues. It presents Georgia Tech with incredible opportunities — and an obligation — to serve as a trusted partner, bringing more ideas and options into discussions, as well as contributors, enablers, and producers of innovation, solutions, and economic prosperity.

Research Goals

The Commission on Research Next has developed 16 goals for the Georgia Tech research enterprise that align with the six themes laid out in the Institute's strategic plan.

- Pioneer new directions of research that fully leverage our educational mission.
- Champion public service for the greater good through thought leadership and strategic, long-term relationships with federal, southeastern, state, and local stakeholders.
- Actively and intentionally promote and market our research brand to local, national, and global audiences.
- Amplify Georgia Tech's interdisciplinary and collaborative culture and structures to drive discovery and enable innovation, including deep integration of the social sciences and humanities.
- Become an integral part of a network of private and public partners, enabling innovative solutions for Atlanta, Georgia, and the U.S.
- Engage and connect with Atlanta's fine arts communities to mutually invigorate and inspire.
- Advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a nation-leading research university. Remain a global research and development hub.
- Amplify Georgia Tech's ability to broaden access channels through community collaborations and partnerships.
- Embody the rich demographic diversity of the Southeast to amplify our role as a national leader in diversity across the research enterprise.
- Expand access to and awareness of our research outcomes and impacts.
- Ensure that all members of the research enterprise feel empowered and engaged, contributing to research excellence at Georgia Tech.
- Become integrated into the breadth of the athletics campus community.
- Exemplify a culture that nurtures and develops a diverse, world-class research workforce.
- Maximize institutional agility that promotes a transdisciplinary culture, characterized by deliberate coordination and innovation.
- Utilize our campus and data as a living lab to incubate ideas and pilot new approaches to innovation.
Thank you to our many stakeholders. A group of 80 Georgia Tech faculty, researchers, staff, and students lent their voices to building a cohesive plan that assesses the current research landscape and outlines a new approach to address the world’s largest challenges. A second group worked on Phase 2 to create the 16 goals of Research Next.

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