



Georgia Tech Global Leadership Conference

April 9th 2011

“Fostering Innovation and Global Citizenship”

www.gtglc.org

Information Packet

INTRODUCTION

In today's highly globalized world, people are more connected than ever. Information, ideas and products flow almost instantaneously from one part of the world to the other. Through the use of 21st century technology, it is easy for people to travel, communicate and do business on an international scale. This increase in cross-cultural communication has led to the sharing of values, ideas and cultural trends from all corners of the globe.

With students from over 100 countries, Georgia Tech is one of the most diverse institutions for higher education in the world.

These diverse students are all part of the future of the world, thus it is crucial to help shape their understanding of the global world. We must close the gaps between different cultures, yet maintain the unique cultural identities. We must equip these students with leadership skills which will allow them to lead in a diverse work place in a world that knows no cultural boundaries. What set each person apart are their unique background and life experiences, and sharing these experiences with other students in the Georgia Tech community will promote an exchange of dialogue that will benefit everyone.

Yet the campus is not unified. There is still a blatant and obvious divide between the various groups of students, many of whom are of different nationalities.

This obviously means that the students, as well as the university, are not using the current campus atmosphere to its utmost potential. We want to change this.

Our Vision:

Through the GLC, we hope to promote the unification of the different cultures at Georgia Tech and help bridge the gaps between them. Over the next few years, we wish to make the GLC an annual event that attracts aspiring youth of all nationalities from across the country and helps them become leaders that truly understand the dynamics and manners of leadership in a globalized world.

What Sets Us Apart:

There are three existing leadership conferences at Georgia Tech which are led by AASU, Women's Resource Center and ODK, all of which are targeted at specific populations, though not limited to them. The targeted student populations that are covered by these conferences are African American students, Women and the Western population, respectively. What we currently need, however, is a leadership conference targeted specifically at a diverse crowd, a conference which will promote cultural unification, stress leadership qualities, and promote an exchange of dialogue between students of different backgrounds. We need to create global leaders who not only recognize and understand the dynamics of a highly diversifying world, but who maintain and respect their own cultural identities.

While we are aiming to create an edge of uniqueness by tackling a different issue, the primary technique for us to differentiate ourselves is by targeting a different audience than the other three existing leadership conferences; rather than focus in on any particular group of students, we want to include students from all different types of cultures and nationalities.

THE CONFERENCE

Workshops

Workshop presentations will be offered throughout the day. These interactive presentations will cover topics of professional and personal development. Presenters will come from a variety of backgrounds, all of whom have managed to succeed in their own fields in this dynamically changing world. The workshops are:

Emerging Energies – Giri Iyer, GE Digital-Energy

At a time when energy related issues are so significant—national security, economic development and Green House Gas management – the objective of the workshop is to examine up and coming renewable sources of energy and the extent to which clean energy technologies can meet demands in the future.

Giri Iyer, the Smart Grid Ecosystem Leader of GE Energy-Digital Energy and his team are chartered with building a strong ecosystem of products and services organizations around GE's capabilities in Smart Grid. The potential of the Smart Grid is enormous: improved energy efficiency, optimization of power supply and demand, and greater transparency into power consumption. Theoretically, at some point in the future, the Smart Grid will allow consumers to specify different sources of electricity based on costs or environmental attributes. After a handful of years of innovation, how does this vision align with today's reality?

Emerging Markets – John McIntyre, Director CIBER

With the financial crisis shaking the American economy and debt plaguing several European countries, countries like Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC) have come to the forefront of the global economy. This workshop explores the relevance of the BRIC countries with respect to the rest of the world and how they can lead the revolution for innovation to build a cleaner planet (energy).

Global Change Brought by Digital Media

This workshop explores the transformed media landscape and what it means for anybody anywhere in the world wanting to get the message out there. Media is largely social and created by amateurs locally which means innovation can happen anywhere in the world in a way that people feel that they are directly involved. Media is not just a source of information anymore but more so a site of coordination. We are increasingly in a landscape where media is global, social, ubiquitous and cheap. It has the ability to disseminate information before professional mediums and even lead a revolution (Egypt).

Social Welfare in a Globalized World

The focus of the workshop is to use business values to solve pressing social issues. Participants are introduced to the idea of a social business – ventures with the objective of achieving social change. The impact of the business on people or environment, rather than the amount of profit made in a given period measures the success of social business. The business objective of a social venture is to overcome one or more problems that affect people or society and not to maximize profit.

Panel Discussion

A panel discussion at the end will serve as a platform for the attendees to consolidate the day's key points. Mr. Wes Wynens, Director of the LEAD program at Georgia Tech will be facilitating the panel discussion, which will comprise of members from the Georgia Tech Strategic Planning Committee and alumni who have a significant role in the globalization of corporations around Atlanta. The discussion will be centered on how cultural differences impact work environments and how to leverage international experience to get a job. Globalization has triggered more businessmen to move cross-culturally. Improving intercultural communication skills has been an intriguing area in the second language acquisition field. This panel investigates how culture affects business, the impact of cultural values on business norms, practices and behavior, positive and negative manifestations of cross cultural differences and the skills required to be a 21st century global leader.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:30 am – 10:00 am: Registration

9:45 am – 10:15 am: Welcome/Networking/Breakfast

10:15 am – 11:00 am: Keynote Speaker

11:05 am – 11:55 am: Break-Out Session I

12:05 pm – 12:55 pm: Break-Out Session II

1:05 pm – 2:05 pm: Lunch/Panel Discussion