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News Release

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Atlanta Public Schools and Georgia Tech Announce Unique Scholarship Program

Valedictorians and Salutatorians to receive full in-state tuition scholarships

ATLANTA – Just like graduation seasons of the past, in May, Atlanta Public Schools will have a new group of Valedictorians and Salutatorians who will have a unique opportunity. These graduates will have the chance to become the first “APS Scholars @ Georgia Tech.” This honor will include automatic undergraduate acceptance and admittance to the Georgia Institute of Technology and provide students with full in-state tuition scholarships for four years.

On Thursday, Atlanta Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Meria J. Carstarphen and Georgia Tech President G. P. “Bud” Peterson announced the new program at historic Booker T. Washington High School. The announcement was made before an audience that included the school’s high academic achievers, district officials, community members and Atlanta’s corporate leaders.

“For years, top Atlanta Public Schools graduates have chosen to attend some of the country’s most prestigious colleges and universities,” said Dr. Carstarphen. “In addition to their intended field of study, the availability of scholarships is a major factor in college selection for our students and their families. Hopefully, this will put Georgia Tech at the head of the list for many of our top graduates.”

The initiative was designed to increase exposure and access to Georgia Tech for Atlanta Public School’s most prepared students. To become an APS Scholar, students have to be named either the Valedictorian or Salutatorian of their high school. Students must also have successfully completed the pre-requisite course work and admission process for entrance into Georgia Tech. APS Scholars can begin classes at Georgia Tech as early as the summer semester of 2015.

“Georgia Tech is committed to the Atlanta community, and we are pleased to partner with Atlanta Public Schools to not only offer admission to these deserving young people, but also to provide resources they need to succeed,” said Georgia Tech President G. P. “Bud” Peterson.

"Through a combination of the various financial aid opportunities available, including our own Georgia Tech Promise Program, the Governor's REACH Georgia Program and other state and federal financial aid programs, we will help ensure that these students can make a Georgia Tech degree a reality," he added.

"This is a really special opportunity for our highest achieving students," said Dr. Carstarphen. "It takes partnerships like this to make modern higher education work for students who, even with high academic achievements, still have limited access to top colleges. We need to create many more initiatives like this."

Atlanta Public Schools is one of the largest school districts in the state of Georgia, serving approximately 50,000 students across 106 learning sites. The district is organized into nine K-12 clusters with 87 schools, 17 charter schools and two citywide single-gender academies, where students are offered rigorous instructional programs that foster success in school and life. For more information, visit www.atlantapublicschools.us

The Georgia Institute of Technology is one of the world's premier research universities. Ranked among U.S. News & World Report's top public universities, the Institute enrolls 21,500 students within its six colleges. Georgia Tech is a national and international leader in scientific and technological research and education and is the nation's leading producer of engineers as well as a leading producer of female and minority engineering Ph.D. graduates. Visit www.gatech.edu for more information.

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