

Georgia Tech Reopens Northwest Regional Office in Rome

Georgia Institute of Technology – December 10, 2013

Georgia Tech has reopened its Northwest Regional Office in Rome to better serve the 15-county Northwest Georgia area. The office will house two staff members of the Georgia Manufacturing Extension Partnership (GaMEP), an industrial assistance program operated by Georgia Tech's Enterprise Innovation Institute (EI2).

"We are pleased to reopen our office in Rome to serve the many companies and communities in the Northwest Georgia area," said Stephen Fleming, Georgia Tech vice president and executive director of EI2. "In 1961, Rome was the location for Georgia Tech's very first regional office, and we look forward to continuing that tradition of service."

Located in the Georgia Highlands College Heritage Hall at 415 East Third Avenue, the office will house Region Manager David Apple and Strategic Business Manager Andy Helm. The two will assist manufacturers and other companies adopting innovative practices in process improvement, product development, energy management, sustainability and strategic business development. They will also provide a key connection for broader engagement with Georgia Tech research and educational resources.

The GaMEP uses a solution-based approach in areas such as lean and process improvement, product development, international standard (ISO) management systems, sustainability, energy and strategic business development. The goals are to help companies increase top-line growth and reduce bottom-line costs. Last year, the GaMEP helped manufacturers reduce their operating costs by \$36 million, increase sales by \$191 million and create or retain nearly 1,000 jobs.

"The Northwest Georgia area welcomes Georgia Tech and we look forward to expanding the partnerships already begun in such areas as manufacturing and medical information," said James N. "Doc" Kibler, chairman of the Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce.

"Applying science and technology is essential to the economy of the future, and we believe Georgia Tech's presence will help the area build a foundation for continued success," said Dr. Craig McDaniel, chairman of the Future Industries Initiative of the Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce.

EI2 is the nation's largest and most comprehensive university-based program of business and industry assistance, technology commercialization, and economic development. In addition to its services to manufacturers, EI2 helps Georgia entrepreneurs launch and build successful startup companies, provides innovative medical information services, supports minority businesses and assists companies impacted by foreign competition.

For assistance, please contact David Apple at (770-328-0802)(david.apple@innovate.gatech.edu) or visit the Georgia Manufacturing Extension Partnership website at (www.gamep.org).