

## STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

### ADVOCATES FOR ACCESSIBILITY AWARDS - 50 YEARS OF SECTION 504

Honored at the Advocates for Accessibility Awards were Institute Landscape Architect **Jason Gregory** (left), Landscape Project Manager **Jerry Young** (center), and Registered Architect III **Ngugi Mathu** (right). The award recognizes individuals who have actively worked to improve accessibility for people with disabilities in the Georgia Tech Community.



### GEORGIA TECH CAMPUS WINS TWO AWARDS

Associate Director of Landscape Services **Neil Fuller** accepts the GRAND award from the Professional Grounds Management Society in the category of Urban University Grounds.. The Grand Award is the highest award ever received by Georgia Tech from this nationally recognized organization. Georgia Tech also garnered the Sustainability Award.

A team of I&S employees collaborated to compile the award application with contributions from **Tiara Ball** (Landscape Services), **Cathy Brim** (Communications), **Doug Sims** (GIS), and **John Richardson** (Finance).



### TREE CAMPUS AWARD

2023 Tree Campus Higher Education Designation by the Arbor Day Foundation for the 16th consecutive year. Receiving the certificate are Horticulturist II **Alex Smith** and Tree Surgeon **Quentin Holden**.

### OUTDOOR CLEANUP

Joint Winners Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of Tennessee Knoxville: 15,445 lbs of trash cleaned up outdoors combined between the two schools.

The Campus Race to Zero Waste program, governed by Recyclemania, Inc. in partnership with the National Wildlife Federation, is the nation's premier recycling and waste reduction initiative on college campuses. Through friendly competition, the program aims to encourage and support universities aiming to improve their waste reduction practices.

### GREEN SEAL CERTIFICATION

For an eighth consecutive year, Georgia Tech has achieved Green Seal Certification and compliance with Green Seal Standards GS-42 Edition 2.3 Commercial and Institutional Cleaning Services.



### RACE TO ZERO WASTE GAME DAY CHALLENGE

Five universities have been named winners in the 2023 Campus Race to Zero Waste GameDay Football Zero Waste Touchdown Challenge, offering a blueprint to peers looking to reduce waste and improve sustainability on their own campuses.



The GameDay Football Challenge hosted 54 participating colleges and universities aiming to reduce and recycle the waste generated at college football games. The competition honors schools in four categories: recycling, food organics, waste minimization and outdoor cleanup.

### FIRE SAFETY WINS GTPD AWARD

Each year the Georgia Tech Police Department honors a department or organization with the GTPD Community Partnership Award. The award was presented to the EH&S Fire Safety team. Photo l-r: **Justin Kale**, Life Safety Tech II; **Renee Lee Starks**, Fire Safety Specialist; GTPD **Chief Robert Connolly**, **Bridget Mourao**, Fire Safety Manager; **Jake LeJeune**, Fire Safety Coordinator; **Jason Vanhook**, Life Safety Tech III; **Ramel Spruill**, Fire Safety Specialist



## OUR VALUES

- Students are our top priority.
- We nurture the wellbeing of our community.
- We celebrate collaboration.
- We strive for excellence.
- We act ethically.
- We champion innovation.
- We thrive on diversity.
- We are responsible stewards.
- We safeguard freedom of inquiry and expression.

LIFELONG LEARNING

# INCLUSIVE LEADERS ACADEMY GRADUATES

Congratulations to Human Resources Business Partner **Andy Moxley**, Executive Director of Sustainability and Building Operations **Alex Ortiz**, and Storeroom Foreperson **William Brown** for successfully graduating from the Inclusive Leaders Academy (ILA). Since the program's 2017 launch, ILA has become a premier leadership development program for staff and faculty at Georgia Tech. ILA is also vital to the Institute's goals of cultivating inclusive leadership and retaining and developing a world-class workforce where everyone feels supported, valued, respected, productive, and engaged. Learn more about the ILA at [www.hr.gatech.edu](http://www.hr.gatech.edu).



## GRADUATIONS



Special Projects Lead Mark Wood received his Master of Science in Analytics with a concentration in business analytics.



Planner Laurence Brennan received his Master's in City and Regional Planning.



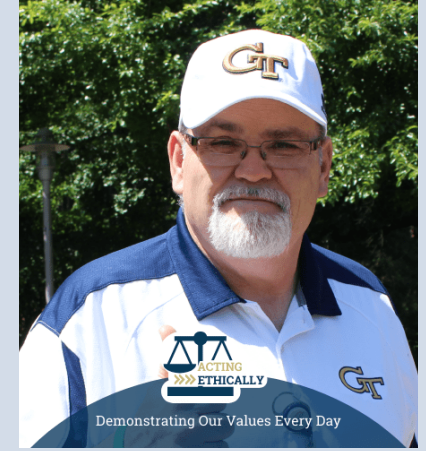
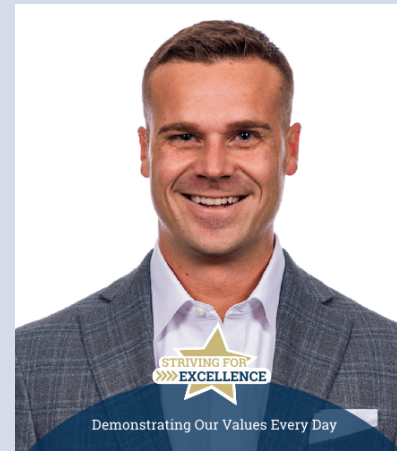
Associate Director of Planning Amanda Jones and Director of Data Analytics Jimmie Hardin received their Business Analytics Graduate Certificates from the Scheller College of Business. The 100% online program teaches professionals how to prepare and interpret data to make more informed business decisions.

## LIVING OUR VALUES EVERDAY (L.O.V.E.)

These I&S colleagues were recognized by their colleagues for exemplifying one or more of the nine values articulated in Georgia Tech's Strategic Plan. The campaign, Living Our Values Every Day (L.O.V.E. GT), helps the entire community bring our values to life in tangible ways that allow us to fulfill the objectives of the strategic plan.



L-R: Communications Officer II Cathy Brim, Associate Director of Landscape Services Neil Fuller, Director of Data Analytics Jimmie Hardin, Associate Director of Planning Amanda Jones.



L-R: Program & Operations Manager Cheryl Kelley, Associate VP of Services Tommy Little, Senior Assistant to the Vice President Daniel Nester, Maintenance Worker II Chuck Sheffield.

CULTIVATING WELLBEING

# CELEBRATING NATIONAL TRADESPERSON DAY

Georgia Tech Human Resources recognized National Tradesperson Day on campus. Skilled tradespersons received a thank you note, a pin, and a snack in appreciation of the daily, vital contributions they make to operating and maintaining our campus community. Pictured L-R: Maintenance Professional II Kpouso Karka, Carpenter III Scott Hayes, and A/C Mechanic Leonard Major. Center photo: Multicraft Foreperson Michael Dean, and Landscape and Waste Management Operations Manager Shawn Dunham.



CHAMPIONING INNOVATION

# WHAT COMES AFTER SMART RESTROOMS? SMART CLASSROOMS

Rolled out in phases, the Smart Restroom Technology Program is fully operational throughout campus. This technology was nationally recognized through APPA's "Effective & Innovative Practices Award". Smart Restroom signage indicates that a service request can be submitted specifically for that restroom. The customer scans a QR code for a menu of service options. This information is forwarded directly to Building Services who dispatches an employee to resolve the issue in a timely manner. Continuing on this success, the Smart Classroom Technology Program is currently rolling out across campus. Assoc. Dir. of Building Svcs and Program Lead Stan Smith says "This customer service enhancement tool is profoundly beneficial by directly connecting us to the needs of the campus community where service excellence is our goal."



# EH&S HOSTS DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE FOR TECH EMPLOYEES

The General Safety Team within the Environmental Health and Safety department is responsible for ensuring all Georgia Tech employees receive and maintain defensive driver training. The department held its first in-person class since the pandemic. The training provides employees with the skills and knowledge to be safer drivers.



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## CONNECTING GLOBALLY

## GLOBAL CONNECTIONS: STEPHENS AND CHIRICO IN SOUTH AMERICA

Interim VP Jim Stephens and Jennifer Chirico, AVP of the Office of Sustainability share in their own words about their visit to South America.

**Jim Stephens:** “Jennifer Chirico and I took a transformative trip to Medellín, deeply engaging with the Georgia Tech Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurism among other impactful stakeholders. Witnessing Medellín’s dedication first-hand, it is evident they are genuinely committed to sustainable urban change with commendable efforts in recycling and stormwater management. Our conversations and our visits to local universities showed how progressive Colombia is becoming in the sustainability realm. I am convinced they are positioning themselves to be world leaders in this field. The entrepreneurs at the Georgia Tech Center are adept at bridging visionary ideas with innovative solutions. Immersing ourselves in Medellín’s vibrant culture emphasized that diversity is not just about representation; it is about the wealth of knowledge and perspectives we gain from various backgrounds, enriching our strategies, and broadening our global understanding. In fact, one part of Georgia Tech’s strategic vision is “conectarnos globalmente” or to connect globally.

Following Medellín, I had the distinct privilege of presenting at the Congreso Latinoamericano de Distritos Térmicos in Cartagena. Navigating my first “ponencia” in Spanish was challenging, but it paved the way for deeper connections with fellow participants. What truly struck me was the sophistication of Colombia’s district energy systems, often surpassing those in the US. It was a reminder that embracing new learning is a part of changing the world. Just as I stretched my skills by presenting at the conference in Spanish, each of us can stretch our skills. Whether learning a better way to service our customers or using an innovative technology, the process of growth allows us to develop new capacities. As you look at your role here at Georgia Tech, do not be afraid to challenge yourself to try and learn new things. We want this to be a supportive environment where you can truly be your best.”



**Jennifer Chirico:** “Medellin, Colombia is at the forefront of sustainability in South America. It was interesting to witness how much they have accomplished with less financial investment. One area that stood out to me was the consistent zero waste messaging. They utilize a color coordinated 3-bin system (recycling, compost, and landfill) at every waste station throughout the city and all of its universities. Many of the universities have won zero waste certifications. I believe we can achieve the same results at Georgia Tech through consistent infrastructure changes and messaging across the campus.

The other area that was particularly notable was the focus and expanded knowledge on the rewards of increased energy efficiency, and how much it can impact cost and emissions. They have been able to implement and progress significantly on climate action with simple, cost effective, and successful strategies.”

## LANDSCAPE ELECTRIFIES

The Landscape Services turf team welcomed two new Toro Z Master Revolution 60” electric mowers as I&S moves toward renewable energy and reducing our campus greenhouse gas emissions. Photo: Groundskeeper III Robby Kincade shows President Cabrera how to operate the new Toro.



## SUSTAINABILITY NEXT PUBLISHED, CLIMATE ACTION PLAN COMING SOON

Sustainability Next: Georgia Tech’s Sustainability Plan



*“Taking its cues from our strategic plan, Sustainability Next provides our community with a blueprint for an Institute that teaches and embodies sustainability in everything we do. Connecting Georgia Tech’s education, research, and operations, Sustainability Next represents a comprehensive collaboration among units and leaders across campus to address and advance the full range of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.”*

– President Ángel Cabrera

Climate Action Plan

Almost 100 campus stakeholders convened across nine subject matter working groups throughout 2023 to develop climate mitigation and resiliency strategies for Georgia Tech with a goal to reduce emissions by 100% by 2050 while leveraging the Institute’s academic and research strengths. Thus far, engagement has spanned students, faculty, and staff, including: 20+ Advisory task force members, 90+ Working group members, and 200+ Students, faculty and staff participating in events.

The Climate Action Plan is due to publish in April.

RESONPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP

# CAMPUS CHILLED WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PLAN IN PROGRESS

Teams from Infrastructure and Sustainability (I&S) and the Office of Emergency Management are working directly with building managers for awareness about the valve installation project needed to support the aging campus chilled water system.



The system serves the cooling needs for buildings on campus connected to the district system. The first two phases of the valve installation project have been successful. Additional weekend planned outages will occur throughout the spring.



## STEPHENS TO SERVE AS INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Jim Stephens, senior associate vice president and deputy facilities officer for Infrastructure and Sustainability (I&S), has been named interim vice president for I&S.

The search for the next vice president for Infrastructure and Sustainability will begin shortly. More information will be shared when it is available.

STUDENTS ARE OUR TOP PRIORITY

# PARATRANSIT AND LATE-NIGHT DRIVERS OF PTS

Parking and Transportation Services (PTS) is comprised of about 60 employees managing the parking and transit needs for students, employees, vendor/contractors, retirees, and visitors.

Transit is a critical component to the future of Georgia Tech's campus environment and sustainable service offerings. PTS manages more than 40 electric vehicle charging ports and operates nine hybrid Stinger buses. PTS also provides charter services within a 50-mile radius of the John Lewis Student Center to students and campus organizations.

Transportation Services provides access to carpool and rideshare options, public transportation discounts, and rules and regulations regarding bicycles and personal mobility devices.

Current campus transit options include the daily Stinger and the Stingerette, a late-night campus shared-ride option. Additionally, paratransit service is available to those with a qualifying disability.

Paratransit driver **Joclyn Bowers** shares "I've been driving for four years, and the best part is meeting the students and building relationships with them. The smiles on their faces let us know that we are making campus life better for them."

**Rhonda Wilson**, also a paratransit driver shares that she "does not see students as just students, but as someone's child. I enjoy the diversity of our students. I learn so much from them and they learn from me as well. Many students are living away from home for the first time, therefore I act as a chaperone assisting them with learning how to get around campus. Seeing students grow from freshman to seniors and knowing I contributed to their journey is rewarding."



Photo left: Paratransit drivers Sasha Fennell, Joclyn Bowers, and Rhonda Wilson. Photo center: Late-night Stingerette Drivers Amin Miller, Andre Huggins, Eden Sims, Joseph Reed, Carlos Head. Photo right: Late-night Stingerette Drivers Aquadia Mackin and Bobby Williams.

# COMPREHENSIVE CAMPUS PLAN PUBLISHED



After more than two years of intensive data collection and analysis, the Planning, Design, and Construction department finalized the new Comprehensive Campus Plan (CCP). The CCP is a living document that will guide how campus space will evolve to support the growing needs of the campus community for the next 10 years and beyond. The plan is flexible, adaptable, and considers estimated future institutional needs as well as projected trends in higher education.

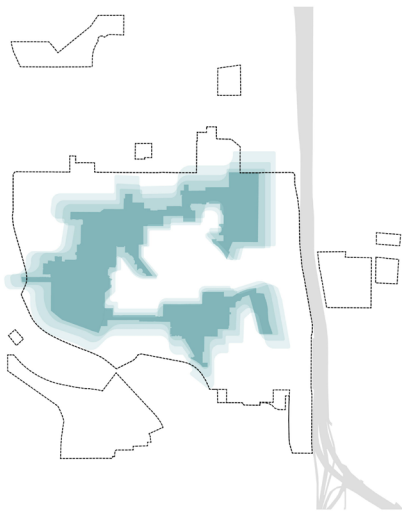
“Our new Comprehensive Campus Plan outlines a bold future for our campus that supports growth while reaffirming our commitments to students, sustainability, well-being, innovation, and our neighboring communities,” said President Cabrera. “I’m excited to see the many ways this plan will enhance the Georgia Tech experience and preserve the beauty of our campus”.

- President Cabrera

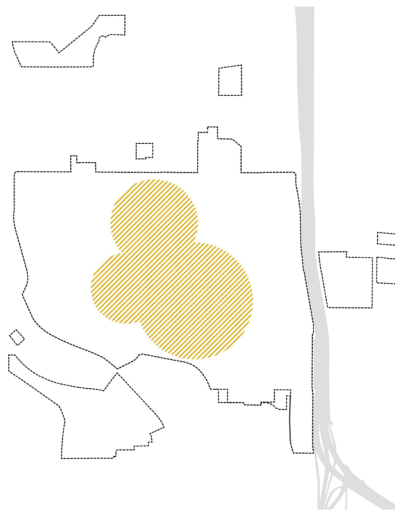
To learn more about the CCP, visit [www.campusplan.gatech.edu](http://www.campusplan.gatech.edu).

## 4.1 Big Ideas

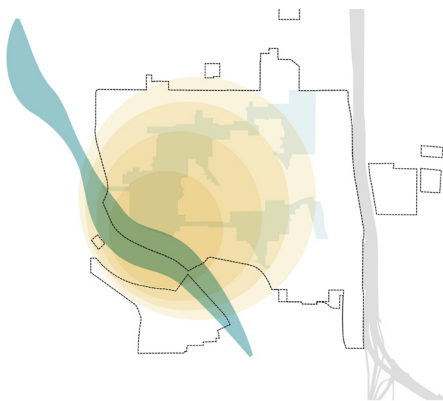
Five big ideas define the core concepts of the Comprehensive Campus Plan



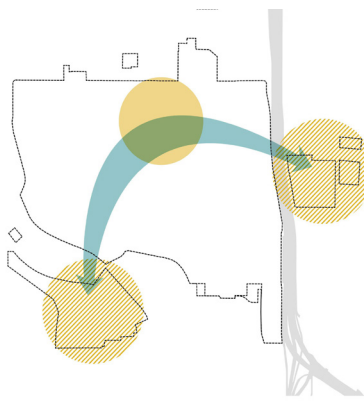
1. Harmonize With and Expand EcoCommons



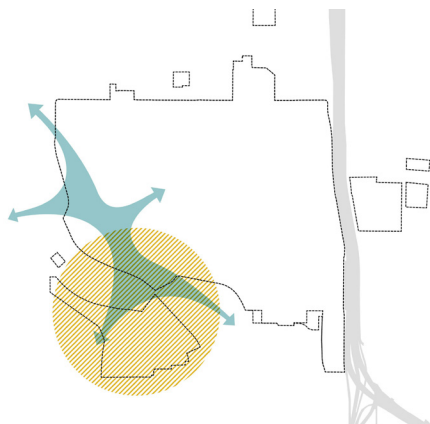
2. Densify the Core



3. Heal the Ridge



4. Connect Science Square, Biosciences, and Tech Square



5. "Anchor" Southwest Community Edge



### I&S IN ACTION

## LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Retiring from Georgia Tech in 2022, John DuConge has now returned part-time to the Planning, Design, and Construction department. John was instrumental as a senior project manager in both the construction of The Kendeda Building and the Campus Center projects. He shared his expertise at the Norman J. Radow College of Humanities and Social Science’s 365 Days of Learning & Service initiative at Kennesaw State University.



John DuConge presents at Kennesaw State University.

## PRIORITIZING OUR STUDENTS

# INAUGURAL FALL TECH BEAUTIFICATION DAY

Georgia Tech students organized a fall version of Tech Beautification Day on Saturday, November 4, 2023 in collaboration with Landscape Services. More than 50 volunteers cleaned campus monument signs, planted trees, pulled invasive ivy, and planted bulbs. The 25th anniversary of Tech Beautification Day is planned for April 6, 2024.



## WHAT DOES A COST ESTIMATOR DO?



Cost Estimator Kira Alford in the Planning, Design, and Construction department is responsible for supporting departmental staff with project budgeting and estimating from the initial concept through construction.

One of the main tools that Kira uses is the Georgia Tech Historical Cost Database. This database, created specifically for Georgia Tech, has been in development for several years. The software predicts the escalated costs of previous Georgia Tech projects to today's dollars. For example, if someone has a potential wet lab renovation, Kira can provide a rough order of magnitude (ROM) budget based on square foot prices of previously completed Georgia Tech wet lab renovations. This

service can apply to many types of projects throughout campus including dorm refreshes, lecture hall renovations, office renovations, elevator replacement, re-roofing, etc. In addition to calculating to today's dollars, the Historical Cost Database has the ability to predict future costs based on historical construction cost escalation. This is a very useful tool for long-term planning of capital projects.

Planning, Design, and Construction is improving the project intake process by providing campus customers with probable cost estimates based on the historic data for projects of similar size and scope.

Kira also works with planners and designers to define project scopes, establish project budgets, assist with reviewing bids, change orders, and value engineering. She also provides complete estimates when needed by designers, planners, or project managers. Kira also manages external estimating consultants. She is a "Double Jacket", with both a Bachelor's and a Master's of Science in Civil Engineering.

## READY AND GT1000

Assoc. Dir. of Infrastructure Services Jamie Ready shares, in her own words, why she is committed to the GT1000 program.

"I have been teaching GT1000 since Fall 2018. I was first paired with Marissa Jules with OIT (Office of Information Technology), and she and I have taught together ever since. I was drawn to the program to get to know the student population. All the work I do affects students and their education, but I had no direct interaction with them. In a small classroom, I am acquainted with first semester students and help them adjust to the college experience. Instructors act as advisors and mentors as well as experts in all things Georgia Tech.

GT1000 is an optional first semester course designed to help students successfully transition to Georgia Tech. The classes are small and discussion based. We cover topics such as time management, academic planning, resume writing, effective team dynamics, and campus resources.

Teaching GT1000 is especially rewarding for me because I get to meet students as they are just entering their college experience. They are so ambitious, hopeful, and dedicated, I love to hear about their ideas and future plans. They will certainly change the world and I get to be there for their very first steps. It keeps me energized and motivated to continue my work as I am constantly reminded that students are our top priority.



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS WEEK

SDG Week encourages partners around campus to organize and host SDG-focused events (such as workshops, service projects, or conversation panels) to help showcase the many ways Georgia Tech is making progress toward achieving the U.N. Sustainable Development goals on a local level. This year's Sustainability Showcase featured several members of I&S sharing how the work they do aligns with and supports the SDGs.



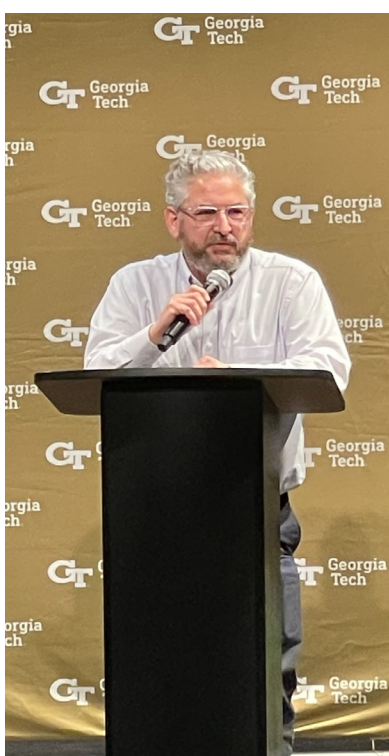
President Cabrera kicked off the week's events by moderating a panel discussion on partnerships for climate mitigation entitled "Drawdown Georgia Business Compact: A Partnership Advancing Collective Action for Climate Mitigation", aligning with his book entitled *Higher Education and SDG17: Partnerships for Goals*. Panelists included John Lanier, Exec. Dir. of the Ray C. Anderson Foundation, Marilyn Brown, Regents' and Brook Byers Professor of Sustainable Systems in the School of Public Policy, Michael Oxman, Managing Dir. of the Ray C. Anderson Center for Sustainable Business, and Beril Toktay, Professor of Operations Mgmt, Sheller College of Business.



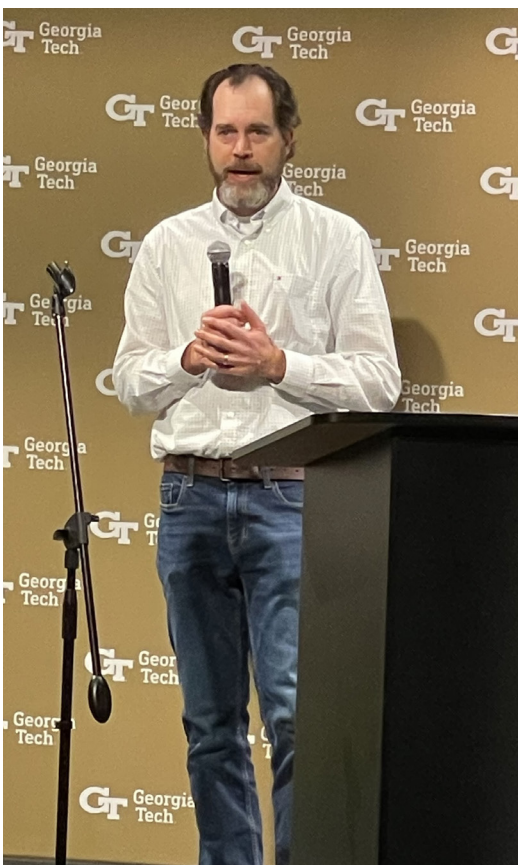
Jermain Clonts explains the Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions that comprise the Georgia Tech greenhouse gas inventory.



Left to right: Climate Action Panelists- AVP of the Office of Sustainability Dr. Jennifer Chirico, Interim VP of I&S Jim Stephens, Interim Associate Director of Infrastructure Greg Spiro, Associate Director of Utilities Jermaine Clonts, Office of Sustainability, Program Manager, Ray C. Anderson Center Dr. Allison Bridges, Deputy Director, Brook Byers Institute for Sustainable Systems Dr. Michael Chang.



Top Photo: Institute Architect Dan Nemecek shared how Tech Square Phase 3 construction aligns with sustainable development on campus. Greg Spiro explained the planned building electrification process and Office of Sustainability Program Coordinator Abby Bower spoke to the implementation of the Climate Action Plan.



Institute Landscape Architect Jason Gregory spoke about the "Intersection of Equity and the Environment...Connectivity." He shared the planned reimagining of Ferst Drive.



Executive Director of The Kendeda Building for Innovative Sustainable Design Shan Arora shared how several local Atlanta buildings have adopted some of the principals espoused by the Kendeda Building.