

# Fresh Perspectives on Economic Development in Georgia

From the 2009  
Georgia Innovation Interns  
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- *Can waste-to-energy technologies help local governments with landfill problems, improve the environment, and create jobs?*
- *What factors make a difference in whether Georgia's manufacturing industries survive?*
- *Would a green building database help attract economic development opportunities to commercial buildings that have implemented these technologies?*
- *Foreign direct investment (FDI) is important to Georgia's economy. How does Georgia compare with the nation's FDI and what opportunities should Georgia seize?*

Learn the answers on September 10, 2009, when four Georgia Tech graduate students publicly present results of their summer internship research projects. We invite you to join us and other economic developers and policy-makers in attending the interns' readout sessions at Technology Square in Midtown Atlanta.

Admission is free and a complimentary lunch will be served.

**What:** Presentation of STIP Intern Research Projects

**When:** Thursday, September 10, 2009, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Where:** Hodges Connections Room, Centergy building, 75 5th Street, NW, Third Floor, Atlanta  
(RSVP information below)

- *Can waste-to-energy technologies help local governments with landfill problems, improve the environment, and create jobs?*

*Jennifer Chirico*, a doctoral student at Georgia Tech's School of Public Policy, examined traditional and advanced technologies for solid waste management. Beginning with an overview of the solid waste problem in Georgia, her research examines the pros and cons of each technology in terms of various economic, social, and environmental variables.



- *What factors make a difference in whether Georgia's manufacturing industries survive?*

*Stephen Carley*, a doctoral student at Georgia Tech's School of Public Policy, used the 2005 Georgia Manufacturing Survey conducted by the Enterprise Innovation Institute as his primary data source. Stephen focused his project on the state's traditional industries - pulp and paper, textiles, and food. He constructed a regression model to measure which variables most influenced a firm's survival using R&D-related and non-R&D-related variables.



- *Would a green building database help attract economic development opportunities to commercial buildings that have implemented these technologies?*

*Rahul Jain*, a master's student with Georgia Tech's City and Regional Planning and School of Public Policy (dual degree), examined existing green-building databases, studied surveys related to the topic, and surveyed a variety of stakeholders. From these results and other data sources, Rahul developed a green-building database structure for Georgia and populated it with more than 150 existing buildings.



- *Foreign direct investment (FDI) is important to Georgia's economy. How does Georgia compare with the nation's FDI and what opportunities should Georgia seize?*

*Shanshan Zou*, a master's student at Georgia Tech's School of Economics, researched foreign direct investment (FDI) trends in the United States and Georgia to search for opportunities for further expansion of these investments. She looked at trends by country and major industry group and contrasted trends in the United States with those in Georgia. Her findings reveal potential foreign industries in key countries to which economic developers can market Georgia as a place to do business.



#### Internship Selection Committee

- Dr. Cathryn T. Mitchell, President, Southeastern Technical College
- Mr. Greg Torre, Division Director, Global Commerce Business Communications Team, Georgia Department of Economic Development
- Ms. Pat Sims, Manager, Community Development - Metro, Georgia Power Company

These internships reflect Georgia Tech's commitment to preparing the next generation of economic developers and to build a bridge between today's practitioners and innovative ideas in economic development. They are offered through the program in Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP), a joint initiative of Georgia Tech's Enterprise Innovation Institute and School of Public Policy ([www.stip.gatech.edu](http://www.stip.gatech.edu)).