



# Building Graduate Student Support and Success through Campus Partnerships

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# Why Build Partnerships?

- We know our population (Georgia Tech graduate students)
- We're not subject-matter experts
- Limited resources (time, money, etc.) to deliver services campus-wide

## Example:

How many of you think it's important to consider the mental health and well-being of graduate students you work with?

How many of you are a trained mental health professional?

How many of you work in offices that would like to hire more people or increase budgets to broaden your capacity to positively impact your students?

# Educating the “whole person”

## Cognitive skills:

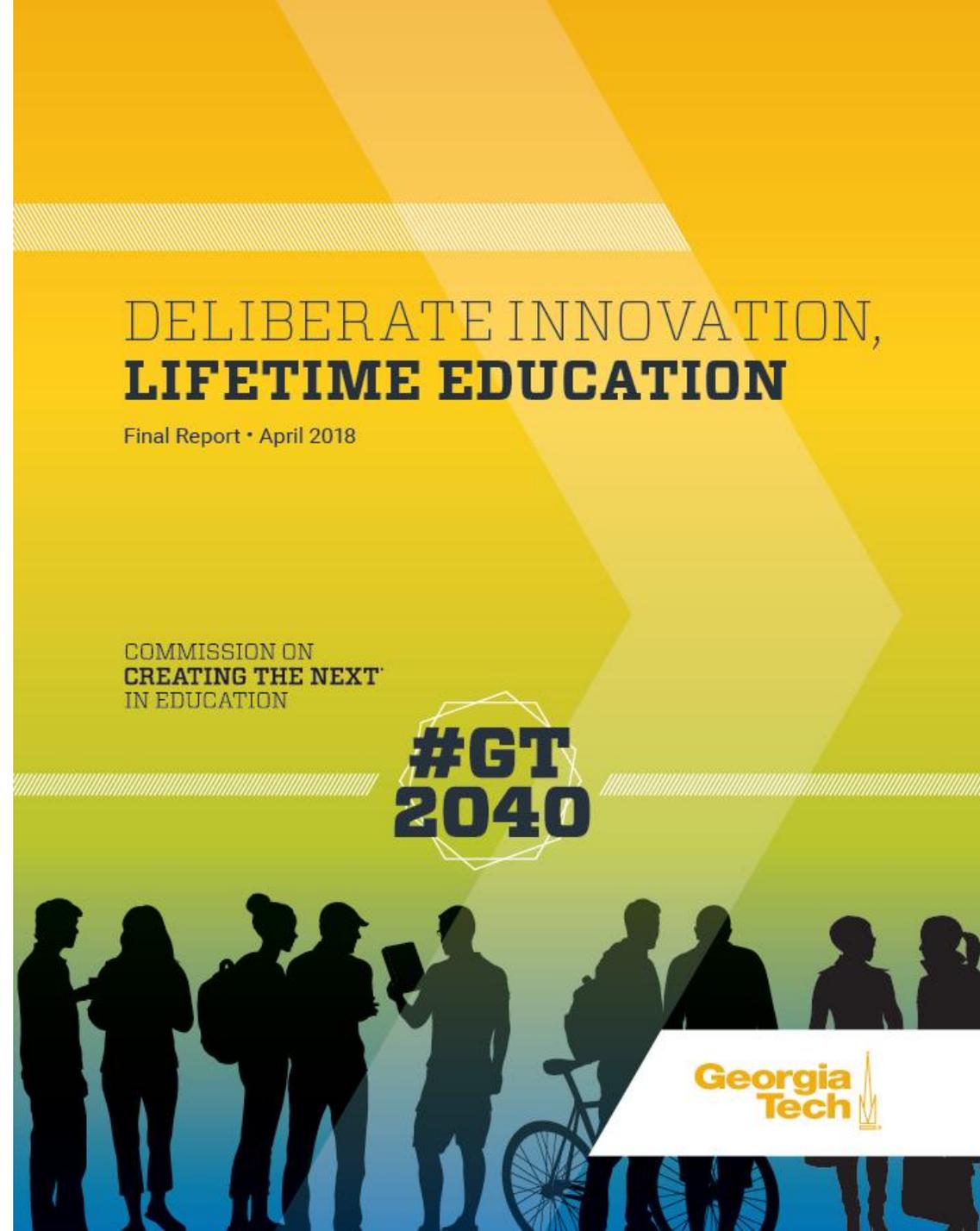
- Problem solving
- Creativity
- Critical thinking

## Interpersonal skills:

- Communications
- Teamwork
- Leadership

## Intrapersonal skills:

- Adaptability
- Initiative
- Discipline
- Ethics
- Persistence



# Educating the “whole person”

- Many of these skills can and will be taught in the classroom.
- But graduate students can be connected with non-academic units on campus that can also provide opportunities to develop these skills.

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# Partnerships at Work

- Graduate Resource and Information Network
- Grad Groups Extended Orientation Program
- Grad Welcome (Convocation + Picnic)
- 3-Minute Thesis Competition
- Grad Student Appreciation Week

# Graduate Resource and Information Network (GRIN)

- Collection of non-academic units that provide services and resources to graduate students
  - Academic program staff are encouraged to attend meetings and stay connected
  - GRIN is the foundation of the Office of Graduate Studies' collaborative network across campus
    - Communication
    - Personal/Professional networking
    - Brainstorming
- Grad Student Appreciation Week Steering Committee

# Graduate Resource and Information Network (GRIN)

Who participates in GRIN?

- Alumni Association
- Athletics
- Student Center
- LGBTQIA Resource Center
- Women's Resource Center
- Center for Teaching and Learning
- Graduate Career Development
- Office of International Education
- Stamps Health Services
- Health and Wellbeing at Georgia Tech
- Counseling Center
- Institute Communications
- Communication Center
- Leadership Education and Development

# Grad Groups Extended Orientation Program

- Opportunity for new graduate students to form social (and eventually professional) networks
  - 16 students per group, 24 groups for fall 2019
- Exposes new students to campus resources
  - Lack of awareness of resources among students (in general)
  - Campus partners want to reach new graduate students early
- Provides a peer mentor for crucial advice for younger students
  - Each group is led by an older graduate student "Group Leader"
- Subject-matter experts can weigh in on course content
- Campus partners are encouraged to host workshops for new students

# Graduate Student Welcome

Georgia Tech hosted its "Graduate Student Welcome" program for the first time in 2018. It's a combination of two events:

## Graduate Student Convocation



## Graduate Student Picnic



# Graduate Student Welcome – Key Partnerships

## 1. Institute Communications (Special Events)

- The Graduate Student Convocation was a brand new event but was modeled after New Student Convocation that IC already hosts annually in the fall
- Graduate students now comprise over half of Georgia Tech's student population and the event was live streamed for our online students

## 2. Graduate Student Government Association

- The Graduate Student Picnic has been held for many years and is hosted by Grad SGA
  - Students fundraise heavily for the events and it is sponsored by many units all over campus
- These events were held on the same evening to improve student attendance.

# Three Minute Thesis (3MT<sup>®</sup>)

- Unique competition that encourages students to see their research from a non-scientific lens while developing communication and presentation skills
  - Complimentary head shots for all participants
  - Monetary awards for finalists
  - Chance to compete at regional and national level competitions
- 3MT Final
  - Catered event in the Global Learning Center
- Campus Partners
  - Communication Center
  - Language Institute
  - Center for Teaching and Learning
  - Institute Communications

# Graduate Student Appreciation Week (GSAW)

- National event established by the *National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS)*
- Opportunity for institution to acknowledge and celebrate the significance of graduate students to the campus community
- Steering committee
  - Center for Student Life
  - Counseling Center
  - Grad SGA
  - Graduate Education & Faculty Development
  - Graduate Housing
  - Health Initiatives
  - Leadership Education and Development (LEAD)
  - Student Alumni Association
  - Women's Resource Center

# GSAW Week of Celebrations

- Kick-off Event
  - #brunchisbetter
  - Complimentary head shots
  - Photo with the Wreck (1930 Ford Model A)
- Alumni Panel
- Treats for Grads
- Grad Spring Picnic
- Academic program sponsored lunches, dinners, and off campus social events
- Social media engagement with online students