

# Tech High

## *The School of the Future for Students of Today*

With your help, Atlanta's high-tech engine can ensure its fuel for the future.

In August 2004, high school students from across the city of Atlanta will step into an academically rigorous, results-oriented charter school focused on math, science and technology. Located in the heart of Midtown's exploding technology sector, Tech High's mission will be to prepare highly skilled, technologically advanced graduates for the challenges of tomorrow.

A distinguished Board of Trustees with excellent academic and technological credentials has selected statewide education leader, Dr. Barbara Christmas, to be the school's leader. With extensive experience as a teacher, principal, curriculum director and school board member, Barbara led Georgia's largest education association for 10 years.

*"The only way to make a real difference in education is to make a real difference in one school at a time. Tech High can and will be a model for excellence and have the ripple effect on other schools seeking to raise the bar on how their students learn and achieve."*

*– Dr. Barbara Christmas,  
CEO, Tech High*

## *Primary Problem needs a Secondary Solution*

The need for this aggressive commitment is clear. Consider:

- Japan, Hong Kong, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Australia outperformed the U.S. in the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study, administered every four years.
- 81% of Georgia students performed below the proficient level in math while 77% performed below the proficient level in science in the National Assessment of Educational Progress, better known as "The Nation's Report Card."
- Georgia high school students ranked last among all states in the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), averaging scores of 491 on the math portion compared to the national average of 519.

*"In recent years, Georgia's high tech firms have had to go outside the state to recruit the leading edge employees they need. In the future, I hope they will be able to find highly educated and motivated students in our schools."*

*– Robert L. Brown, Jr.  
Chair, Georgia Chamber of Commerce*

## *You Can Help Atlanta Students Make the Grade*

Any high school student from the city of Atlanta, will be eligible to enroll in Tech High. Students seeking higher standards of education in math, science and technology will find their opportunity at Tech High – but their aspirations must meet or exceed the school's rigorous expectations. Doors will open in August 2004 with 150 students in 9th and 10th grades and will eventually expand to include grades 9-12.

Provisions for each student at Tech High will include a laptop computer, opportunities to attend lectures by high-tech business executives, access to mentors if he or she encounters academic difficulty and individualized instruction. This instruction includes e-learning, project-based learning, and internships with local businesses.

## Setting High Expectations for the Next Generation

Tech High will impress upon students and their parents that enrollment implies acceptance of a follow-up program that will continue after graduation to measure long-term success. Tech High will develop partnerships with colleges, universities and the business community to retrieve follow-up data. Each student will face continuous testing and assessment to provide frequent feedback and to establish annual benchmarks of progress in technological proficiency as well as work ethic and personal, social and civic responsibility. Our board's goal is that, within six months of graduation from Tech High, 90 percent of its alumni will be successfully engaged in post-secondary education, business or military service.

*“Why did the general partners of Noro-Moseley make a significant gift to Tech High?  
Because if we want to attract and keep successful technology businesses in Georgia,  
we need to provide all the resources they need, especially an exceptional talent pool.”*

*– Charles Moseley,  
General Partner, Noro-Moseley Partners*

## How You Can Help


In the summer of 2003, The Georgia Department of Education and Atlanta Public Schools issued a charter to Tech High after scrutinizing the foundation's educational plans. Nevertheless, government funding will not be available until the school is fully operational. While APS funds will support the faculty and day-to-day operations of Tech High, an estimated \$2.5 million is needed this year to begin hiring excellent faculty, to install necessary technological equipment, to renovate the building with classrooms and labs as well as to support the ancillary programs required to ensure a cutting-edge curriculum.

The Technology Association of Georgia (TAG) has partnered with the Tech High Foundation to raise the needed capital to fund this vital project. Noro-Moseley Partners have generously committed to a lead gift of \$250,000. As Atlanta's technology industry blossoms, your support will be critical to help Tech High's graduates fuel our region's continued growth.

For more information, please contact Barbara Christmas at 404-385-2420 or b1225@bellsouth.net.

*“Over the years, I have been involved in numerous approaches to improve Georgia's education model.  
What I have learned is the only way to make a dramatic, measurable impact on education  
is one student, one class at a time. Tech High will do this.”*

*– Don Chapman,  
Chair, Tech High Foundation*



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