

Transcript

WUTC-FM 88.1 Around and About broadcast about the National SimCenter announcement.

November 21-, 2007

>> U.S. Congressman, Zach Wamp and Senator, Bob Corker, spoke about the global significance of the newly expanded SimCenter, on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. SimCenter is now called the national center of computational engineering, and on Tuesday, Wamp and Corker joined more than 100 local, regional, and state dignitaries, civic leaders, educators, and philanthropists, at the SimCenter's teaching auditorium on Martin Luther King Boulevard. The speakers shared their vision of Chattanooga pushing the leading edge of a southern technology corridor.

>> Well in the south now, there's no question that we're cooperating regionally, regionalism is a trend, not a fad. People in other parts of the country are kind of blown away at how the south's working together on advanced transportation, next generation energy technologies across the board. The SimCenter, the national center now for computational engineering will have a role to play in all of these new technologies, so it is strategically located here halfway between Oakridge and Huntsville. It is a full-blown partner now with the department of energy, which is a major, major deal. And this is our university's way through engineering to play in the next manufacturing opportunities for our country and the free world, so this is a big development. I give Dr. John Peterson a lot of credit, because he is a system wide president, not a single campus president, proof today with the national center coming to Chattanooga.

>> Senator Corker became emotional speaking about Chattanooga's growing relevance in the world and his pride in it.

>> It's an unbelievable place. I have the good fortune of cities all across our state having adopted me and me them, but this is my home and I'm just so proud of all the wonderful things that happened here and the way that people build upon others' successes in a very selfless way and continue to make awesome things happen in this community. It's a distinctive place with a very distinctive future.

>> Alrighty. The center has done work for the U.S. Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, NASA, and the Navy. Corker said, it's becoming infinitely more important as a model of education and as a resource for private companies, such as Boeing. That means a lot when computer modeling and simulation are estimated to be a \$150 billion industry, growing at the rate of 24% a year.

>> There's no question, the department of energy is very much focused on what is happening here in Chattanooga and at Oakridge and the UT system. I had lunch with the governor and Dr. Peterson recently in the senate dining room with Lamar Alexander and

there's just a big, there's a huge buzz if you will about what's happening in this community. So, anyway, it's just a very proud day for all of us. Like everything good in this community, it's a public, private partnership, where so many generous people have given of their own resources to make this happen, the civic leadership, the public leadership that exists here continues to come together and make great things happen and believe me, it is noticed in Washington.

>> There was a critical mass of people donating to this cause.

>> Yeah, no question, in every way, both energy, financial resources, vision, but it's a great day for us and a great day for UTC.

>> The dignitaries expressed gratitude to the donors that made the center possible, Benwood Foundation, the Lyndhurst Foundation, the University of Chattanooga Foundation, the Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga, the McClellan Foundation, the Tucker Foundation, and several anonymous donors. Thanks was also given to Paul Brock, president of non-profit river city company for promoting SimCenter's mission and methods to the donors.

>> It's a great opportunity for the university. It's a great opportunity for the community.

>> University President, Dr. John Peterson, said, UTC's research can now more than ever serve the world.

>> It's about, what can we do collectively? This is going to do something that's positive for the world and I mean I think that's the best thing we can do as a society.

>> National center director, Dr. David Whitfield, said the designation of a national center will elevate the skills of UTC students.

>> As someone pointed out earlier today, it, probably from an educational point of view might look a little better on a resume to come from a national center than otherwise. It's like it was pointed out today might help us with regard to research and so forth, and if it does, that's fine, but the reason why we're a national center, or why we advocate of becoming one is because of the tremendous use in the computational world. Computer codes, data visualization, doesn't make a computer any different whether you're running blood flow or F-16 aircraft, so you can bring that talent under one roof and use it on many, many different problems.

>> For more information on the National Center, call the UTC office of University Relations, 423-425-4363. This is Lana Sutton, for Around and About. [Music]

>> Around and About is a production of WUTC with contributions by the staff and volunteers of WUTC. [Music]