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Home » Blogs » DanaBlarckenhorn's blog

### The Right Tax Break for Business

Submitted by DanaBlarckenhorn on Wed, 2005-12-14 11:30.

There has been a lot of discussion among the Atlanta blogswarm lately about the proper use of tax breaks in order to bring jobs here and grow the economy.

Well, this looks like the right way to do it. The state is putting \$5 million into a new lab, and the Georgia Research Alliance is kicking in another \$2 million, to bring Jeffrey Skolnick here from Buffalo. (The picture shows Skolnick in front of the building he was having built for him in Buffalo. Good times.)

Skolnick is an expert in bioinformatics, which is uses computers and databases in hopes of speeding biological and biochemical research. He brings 19 other researchers and \$1.5 million in grant money with him, but that's just the start.

Bioinformatics can lead to lots and lots of start-ups in the area of life sciences, an area where Georgia is weak now, but wants to get stronger. Between the GRA, and groups like the Advanced Technology Development Center, originally built around the software industry back in the 1980s, we have the infrastructure necessary to launch such start-ups. Among the alumni of the ATDC are Mindspring and ISS.

The point is that if you want to subsidize business, you subsidize research, and give that research a fast route into the market. This is what Georgia Tech is doing, and this is what the state should be doing more of, rather than handing out checks to real estate developers or failing auto companies.

No, not everyone is going to work in bioinformatics. But new technology is the growth engine that makes the rest of the economy work. Technology companies need lawyers, and bankers, and space in which to work.

While we're at it, however, how about a little love for Tech High, say a new home on the Georgia Tech campus, so we can recruit the best-and-brightest while they're still in high school?

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