GE and MSU to celebrate $200,000 renewal of support Feb. 5

GE will renew its relationship with Michigan State University and celebrate a $200,000 gift in support of the College of Engineering during ribbon-cutting ceremonies at 10 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 5.
Officials from MSU and GE will dedicate the redesigned third-floor lobby in East Wilson Hall. The event features MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon and GE officials, who will celebrate the company’s most recent gift to the college’s CoRe Experience.

CoRe is MSU’s first-year engineering program that integrates the academic program with a living-learning community that connects students to their engineering future. CoRe was founded in 2009.

The updated lobby offers students a highly collaborative space that reflects GE’s highly collaborative business as the world’s digital industrial company, said Mike Wagner, general manager, electronics components, controls & accessories value stream, GE Aviation. He is a 1990 graduate of the MSU Eli Broad College of Business.

“Our goal is to encourage students to use this colorful and upbeat space to fine tune team-building skills, which are essential at our company,” Wagner said.

He explained that GE’s energy sectors and digital space are growing the fastest, particularly with engineering and IT and software jobs.

“GE hires about 9,000 people a year in the U.S. and we offer paid internships, so we are always looking for the best talent and ways to introduce students to GE at the beginning of their engineering careers,” Wagner continued.
GE will also host games and networking throughout the day of celebration.

“We’ll bring very cool virtual-reality goggles for students to experience, and we’ll have give-away prizes and activities to show students what GE is like,” Wagner added.

S. Patrick Walton, CoRe director, will serve as the master of ceremonies during the Feb. 5 celebration. Speakers are:

• Leo Kempel, dean of the MSU College of Engineering
• MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon
• Mike Wagner (’90), GE Aviation

Kempel said the celebration is a day of significance for the college.

“GE’s re-commitment to CoRe is even more meaningful than their original support because it shows they have seen the value of being engaged with CoRe these past three years. It benefits our students to have the strong support of engineering industry employers in the college,” Kempel added.

Among the students who will benefit from the renovated GE lobby is Sonja Berger, a sophomore in electrical engineering from Fraser, Mich. Berger will be an intern with GE this summer.

Berger lives in East Wilson Hall, where she is a CoRe peer leader assisting students in their first-year living-learning engineering experiences.
“We use the GE lobby for homework and social events,” Berger said. “We’re able to see it everyday – it’s very important to us,” she continued. “It’s part of our living area – large enough for other students to join you but still be part of your own space. I look at it and know that GE is here to support us.”

GE

Headquartered in Fairfield, Conn., GE has offices in 175 countries and employs 305,000 people -- 136,000 in the U.S. GE created some of the world’s most important devices -- such as the X-ray machine, electronic locomotives, and the electric fan. It works in more than a dozen industries — from aviation and retail to health care and food and beverages.
Shaunda Zilich, GE global recruitment marketing leader, said one-third of GE’s current employees are Millennials. “They range from university grads to experienced professionals. We are constantly looking for today’s ‘innovative thinker’ in the competitive marketplace,” she added.

About GE: GE is the world’s Digital Industrial Company, transforming industry with software-defined machines and solutions that are connected, responsive and predictive. GE is organized around a global exchange of knowledge, the “GE Store,” through which each business shares and accesses the same technology, markets, structure and intellect. Each invention further fuels innovation and application across our industrial sectors. With people, services, technology and scale, GE delivers better outcomes for customers by speaking the language of industry. For more, go to: http://www.ge.com/

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