**ATLANTA REGION**

Atlanta is home to a healthy economy, outstanding quality of life, and excellent higher education institutions.

As home to more than 700 of the nation's Fortune 1000 corporations, the Atlanta region is the perfect place to prepare for a profession and launch a career. Atlanta's diverse and growing job market supports the pursuit of almost any career path, particularly in information technologies, engineering, financial services, biosciences, transportation, communications, consulting, and retail services.

Atlanta-area residents enjoy a higher quality of life and lower cost of living than most other major metropolitan areas. Museums, music halls, and theaters celebrate the arts. Volunteer opportunities and charitable events provide outlets for personal growth. Restaurants and nightspots offer exciting entertainment. Outdoor activities and athletic competition make Atlanta an international sports arena. Atlanta is strategically located for weekend trips, and vacation travel—beaches and mountains are an afternoon drive away, and 80 percent of the nation is reachable within two hours by air.

The region also is home to an incomparable collection of colleges and universities. Over 130,000 students from 50 states and 165 countries attend higher education institutions that are members of the Atlanta Regional Consortium for Higher Education (ARCHE). This idea-packed city is one of the top three U.S. metro areas in both enrollment and graduation of college students. And, Atlanta ranks third among major urban areas in academic research, spending over a half-billion dollars each year. The diverse programs at these institutions—along with superb facilities, innovative academic initiatives, and cutting-edge facilities—make the Atlanta region a national leader in teaching, research, and public service.

ARCHE helps foster the region's academic strength by coordinating programs which allow students and faculty to cross-register for courses and utilize library resources across all 21 member colleges and universities. The Consortium's mission is to advance Atlanta-area higher education through academic collaboration, corporate and community partnerships, and public awareness. Information about ARCHE is available at [www.atlantahighered.org](http://www.atlantahighered.org).

**Source:** Information provided by the Atlanta Regional Consortium for Higher Education.