



## Georgia Tech Conference NOVEMBER 22 & 23 2019

### Media Opportunity with National Significance

### Top Researchers & Industry Leaders Plan a New Hemp Infrastructure

### Fiber, CBD, Food, Environment

### Focus on Economics and Rural Development

The story of hemp in the US goes back to colonial times as a crop that was used to pay taxes. The Bill of Rights was drafted on hemp paper. Hemp was a strategic crop in WWI and WWII. Then came prohibition, and 80 years later the 2018 Farm Bill. So where does that leave us in 2019?

**Hemp: A Plant for the Planet** is a big story to tell, and a good one. The industry needs what Georgia Tech has to offer: Science, Engineering, Supply Chain Logistics, for sure, but most of all respectability.

The economic stakes are high for farmers and rural communities in need of real innovation. Hemp is coming, the question is How? This event covers topics like CBD, Fiber, Food, Economics and the Environment, the first of its kind to combine the best and brightest from public and private spheres.

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## From Georgia Tech



### Hemp Fiber & Pulp

**Chris Luetzgen, PhD**  
Associate Director  
Renewable Bioproducts Institute

“There is absolutely every reason to believe that pulp fiber from the hemp plant can be used to make acceptable and perhaps superior paper and nonwovens, and that we can produce new materials from this ancient fiber.” Dr. Luetzgen is a national leader in the pulp and paper industry, with many years as Senior Scientist at Kimberly Clark.

[Website](#)



### CBD Molecular Modeling

**Pete Ludovice, PhD**  
Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering

“My vision is that advanced science and engineering research from institutions like Georgia Tech will transform our processing of hemp and cannabis.”

[Website](#)



### Supply Chain Logistics & Product Development

**Karthik Ramachandran, PhD**  
Scheller College of Business

“The hemp industry can really benefit from our way of understanding product development and profitable enterprise. And we look forward to learning as well from hemp industry experts!”

[Website](#)



**FLEX MOD**  
SOLUTIONS



### Hemp Processing Infrastructure

**Preston Whitfield**  
VP, Hemp Operations  
FlexMod, Inc

Denver-based FlexMod builds processing facilities for hemp products nationwide. Preston personifies the industry and is in high demand as a speaker and farm visionary. He is program Director for the NOCO Hemp Expo and his NC family farm was the first to legally grow hemp in 2014. FlexMod is proving a safe bet for investors in hemp infrastructure.

[Website](#)



## Press Release October 18, 2019

For Further Information:  
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As Georgia's hemp farmers prepare for a green light from the USDA to start growing, industry leaders are bringing their expertise to Georgia Tech at a two-day conference on November 22 and 23. *Hemp: A Plant for the Planet* represents a first for hemp industry insiders to build a collaborative relationship with a major university, since the 2018 Farm Bill was signed last year. The event will expand the conversation beyond marijuana and focus instead on the science, technology and economic value from the whole cannabis plant, including fiber, CBD and food products, which can easily eclipse the recreational THC markets.

Hemp fiber alone has immense value, starting with traditional ropes, textiles and pulp for paper and packaging, which have been staples of the industrialized world for millennia. With today's composite technology for non-woven fibers, hemp is of high interest for manufacturers seeking more sustainable alternatives to plastics, fiberglass and metals for use in automotive and any number of industries.

With the 2020 Georgia crop for CBD, there is expected to be hundreds or even thousands of tons of leftover plant biomass after the oils are extracted. 9Fiber, a Maryland startup, appears to have a unique solution to convert all that waste into usable fiber. According to CEO Adin Alai, the CBD plant varietal is not easily converted to fiber, so it ends up usually in a landfill, simply because the industry infrastructure is not yet in place to handle processing it. "Our method works and we've got buy-in from a number of manufacturers," he said. "It's just a matter of infrastructure and economics, because these industries need truckloads of usable fiber every day."

Event sponsor FlexMOD Solutions of Denver, Colorado will be connecting with Georgia Tech specialists in supply chain logistics, pulp/fiber, and CBD. FlexMOD's model of hemp processing management is expanding rapidly throughout the US and much of the world. The company develops value-engineered solutions for farming infrastructure, greenhouses, production facilities, and GMP compliant CBD extraction facilities. As fiber and other product streams come online, the utilization and monetization of the entire plant will become increasingly important. FlexMOD's connection with Georgia Tech's expertise in optimization will provide an added advantage for Georgia to get the most out of the new industry, with real economic value for rural communities.

University of Georgia Ag Economist Ben Campbell will provide perspective on how the hemp industry might develop in Georgia, in light of regulations which are now being written for USDA approval. "The rules are not yet final, so nothing is certain until they are finalized. We're trying to weigh what's legal with what's practical. We'll be working closely with communities also to make sure concerns are heard, and that people get the research-based, objective information they need," he said.

Hemp is also known for its ability to remove toxins from soils and potentially for atmospheric carbon sequestration. Towns like Waycross have been dealing with contaminated soils for years and the event will include members of that community who are discussing a research program with UGA and Decatur-based Integral R+D to measure how the plant might reduce the risks they have been facing.