GIST to hold commencement ceremony in the second half of 2025... 201 future leaders for the AI and digital age

- On Thursday, the 14th, at 4:00 PM, 72 doctoral, 76 master's, and 53 bachelor's degrees were awarded, bringing the total number of graduates to 8,858. The university attracted attention for its SCI publications (an average of 5.2 papers per doctoral student), AI research achievements, social contributions, and entrepreneurial achievements.

- Regional entrepreneur and GIST Foundation Chairman Hae-myeong Kim emphasized "technology for people" and "science for humanity" in his congratulatory address. President Kichul Lim honored the humanitarian legacy of the late Professor Kyoung-Woong Kim of the Department of Environment and Energy Engineering.

▲ GIST is holding its 2025 second-half commencement ceremony at 4:00 PM on Thursday, the 14th, in the Oryong Hall auditorium.

The Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST, President Kichul Lim) announced that it held its 2025 second-half commencement ceremony at 4:00 PM on Thursday, the 14th, in the Oryong Hall auditorium.

At this ceremony, a total of 201 students received degrees, including 72 doctoral degrees, 76 master's degrees, and 53 bachelor's degrees. Since its founding in 1993, GIST has produced a total of 8,858 next-generation science and technology talents, including 2,095 doctoral degrees, 5,271 master's degrees, and 1,492 bachelor's degrees.

At the degree awarding ceremony on this day, congratulatory speeches were given by Democratic Party of Korea National Assemblyman In-cheol Jo (Gwangju Seo-gu A) and GIST Development Foundation Chairman Hae-myeong Kim, who encouraged the graduates' future and delivered congratulatory messages. A congratulatory video prepared by the advisor and fellow students was shown, adding to the emotional atmosphere of the event.

Chairman Hae-myung Kim (Chairman of MSL Co., Ltd.) is a leading regional entrepreneur who has dedicated himself to creating social value and supporting culture and education, embodying the philosophy that "management is for people." He maintains a lasting relationship with GIST through donations and foundation activities.

In his congratulatory address, Chairman Kim urged, "I urge you to become leaders who pursue a path where everyone can move forward together, not just pursuing personal prosperity." He added, "I hope GIST will become a garden of science and technology where researchers who contemplate and practice 'technology for people' and 'science for humanity' can take root and blossom."

▲ Chairman Hae-myung Kim of the GIST Development Foundation delivers a congratulatory address at the 2025 second-half degree award ceremony.

Following the congratulatory remarks, Dr. Hae-in Jeong of the Department of Mechanical and Robotics Engineering, who took the stage as the graduating class' representative, reflected on his graduation speech, saying, "For the past six years at GIST, I have dedicated myself to research that the nation and society need, such as rapid charging and cooling technology for electric vehicles, by pursuing exploration, growth, and contribution as my life goals. Through mentoring juniors, student representative activities, and monthly donations, I have been able to share my learnings and grow into a researcher who contributes to society."

Dr. Jeong was awarded the Excellence in Research Award and the Merit Award in recognition of his contributions to the development of the university through his leadership as the Graduate Student Council President, leading active student self-government activities, and contributing to the development of the university.

The 72 doctoral students who received their degrees this year published a total of 376 papers in SCI (Science Citation Index) journals (including academic journals) during their time at GIST, averaging 5.2 papers per student.

Among them, Dr. Yoonseong Jeong of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering received the Excellence in Research Award for publishing 19 SCI-listed papers (4 as lead author and 15 as co-author) during his doctoral studies.

Dr. Jeong achieved outstanding research results in the fields of ▲ photoelectrochemical biomass conversion, ▲ water decomposition, and ▲ waste upcycling, with two of his lead-authored papers selected as journal cover articles. His research utilizing composite catalyst design, reaction selectivity control, and surface engineering technologies has significantly contributed to the advancement of related fields, and his active collaborative research has exemplified a convergent approach.

Furthermore, with the recent significant increase in interest and policy support for AI education and research, the roles of the four major science and technology institutes as key institutions for AI-based innovation and talent development are gaining attention. The achievements of Dr. Yujin Choi of the Department of AI Convergence also stand out.

Dr. Choi, along with Dr. Jeong, has published seven papers as lead author and two as co-author in top international academic conferences and journals in the field of Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) over the past three years, earning an Excellence in Research Award. His achievements include developing a bio-based AI system that supports music creation and appreciation for the hearing impaired, designing a multi-modal interface that simultaneously processes multiple inputs, including voice, video, and touch, and securing three related patents and one software copyright. Furthermore, through convergent creative activities such as exhibitions and performances, he has demonstrated the potential of combining technology and art, proposing a new vision for talent in the era of AI and digital transformation.

▲ GIST graduates throw their graduation caps in celebration at the 2025 second half commencement ceremony.

GIST's educational philosophy, which encourages students to donate their talents and participate in social contribution activities, and actively supports entrepreneurship, also includes graduates who fit the profile of talents possessing the "3C 1P (creativity, cooperation, communication skills, and problem-solving skills)".

Chae-bin Park, a graduate of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, worked as a member of the GIST Social Contribution Group "Pium" from the 3rd to 5th term while still in school. She participated in the online mentoring program, a knowledge sharing program (semester-long science mentoring for socially vulnerable elementary and middle school students in the Gwangju and Jeonnam regions), from 2023 to the first half of 2025. She contributed to the quality of the program by offering diverse online classes and diligently maintaining class journals. She also received a social service award for her dedication to educational outreach to students in remote islands and mountainous regions.

Ju-young Hong, a graduate of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, developed a pet clothing size measurement platform utilizing AI and computer vision technologies. She founded "Sigorjabjong" while still in school, and has since won awards in domestic and international startup competitions. She received the Future Person Award for her entrepreneurial achievements, including maintaining government support and private investment, securing patents, and demonstrating his business competitiveness on the international stage by participating in the global startup fair "SLUSH" in Helsinki, Finland.

The GIST Foundation Director's Award, the second award presented following the commencement ceremony in February, was presented to Dr. Ki-yeon Shim of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering.

Dr. Shim actively participated in on-campus entrepreneurship programs and was selected for the GIST Laboratory Practical Entrepreneurship Program. Building on this achievement, he and Professor Kwang-sup Eom founded "LVB Co., Ltd.", a company that produces vanadium oxide-based cathode materials for high-performance next-generation lithium metal batteries. Furthermore, as the project manager for industry-academia collaboration projects, he actively linked research and business, leading the project's execution, accumulating both academic achievements and practical experience.

President Kichul Lim told the graduates, "In a world of constant change, 'how you do something' is more important than 'what you do.' If you live with an 'entrepreneurial spirit,' viewing yourself as a founder and owner in your chosen position, your life will be like starting a business."

He also honored the humanitarian achievements of Professor Kyoung-Woong Kim of the Department of Environment and Energy Engineering, who recently passed away from a chronic illness. He dedicated his life to a sustainable future for developing countries, including distributing water purifiers to over 20 countries, including Nepal, Indonesia, and the Philippines, through the "GIST Hope Water Purifier" project and establishing an environmental engineering degree program at the Royal University of Phnom Penh in Cambodia. He urged them, "Whatever decision you make at the crossroads of countless choices, I hope you remember today and live a life that adds warmth and light to the world."

▲ GIST President Kichul Lim is speaking at the 2025 second-half commencement ceremony.

Meanwhile, in February, GIST reorganized its 14 existing undergraduate and graduate departments into four colleges (College of Information and Computing, College of Natural Sciences, College of Engineering, and College of Life Sciences and Medical Engineering). This reorganization promoted interdisciplinary convergence and joint research, and expanded the scale of its education and research units to enhance its international competitiveness.

Following the launch of the Center for Quantum Conversion Research in chemistry (Director Yousoo Kim) and the Center for Relativistic Laser Science in physics (Director Kyung Taec Kim) last year, a research group in the life sciences is scheduled to launch in the second half of this year. With this, GIST will have three IBS campus research groups, strengthening its world-class basic science research capabilities.

In addition, the university is building an education system based on AI and digital innovation, including the establishment of the AI Graduate School (now the Department of AI Convergence) in 2019, the first Graduate School of Al Policy and Strategy in Korea to open in 2024, and the opening of an affiliated AI Gifted High School.

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