Good morning. On behalf of Georgia Tech, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our campus. I understand there are more than 25 countries represented here today—and I can think of no better place for you to hold your conference than Georgia Tech—home of this summer’s global Olympic Village.

Georgia Tech was chosen to host the Olympic Village for many reasons. One reason that might have influenced the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games members a little bit may have been the fact that it could have cost as much as $500 million to construct a comparable Village elsewhere.

I also suspect that Georgia Tech’s reputation may have had something to do with it. We are recognized both nationally and internationally for our ability to get the job done. Our students graduate prepared to enter the workforce experienced in real-world situations. Likewise, our researchers are trusted throughout the nation and the world. So trusted, in fact, that we are ranked sixth for industry-sponsored research by the National Science Foundation.

In addition, the Institute itself is highly regarded. U.S. News and World Report ranks us among the nation’s top 10 public universities. I don’t know of any global ranking system in existence—but if there were, I’m sure Georgia Tech would score highly there as well.

The Olympic Committee’s trust has been well-founded. Not only will we be ready to host the world this summer, a research team from Georgia Tech is also responsible for designing the inner workings of the Olympic Torch that is currently making it’s 15,000-mile journey from Los Angeles to Atlanta.
A journey of another type is currently taking place in the manufacturing sector. Like the Olympics, it is a global journey—as manufacturers across the world attempt to increase their competitiveness and achieve a global presence.

For many of you, this journey has not been easy. J. Paul Getty once defined the surefire way to success as “arrive early, work late, and strike oil.”

Unfortunately, not too many of us have that luxury. So we must concentrate on the first two to get us where we want to be. Currently, Georgia Tech’s faculty, staff, and administrators are doing just that—and striving to work with those in manufacturing to improve their global competitiveness. As Georgia’s technological university, we are committed, in fact, to serving industry through economic development efforts, research, and education.

In many instances our research efforts and economic development efforts work hand in hand. For example, our work with other Georgia research universities through the Georgia Research Alliance is helping to build a stronger technological job base here in Georgia as well as strengthening Georgia’s economy.

On campus, there are more than 60 multidisciplinary research centers in addition to the Georgia Tech Research Institute and the Georgia Tech Research Corporation. These centers are committed to working with industry and include faculty world renowned in their fields. One specific center that I’d like to highlight is our Manufacturing Research Center. The Manufacturing Research Center was founded to help industry increase quality, lower production cost, reduce new product cycle time, and increase product reliability. These goals are being met through industry, government, and industrial collaboration.

Of course, not all research takes place within our multidisciplinary centers. Some examples of current on-going research projects at Georgia Tech include:
• Edward Kamen, a professor in electrical and computer engineering is studying the monitoring of production lines based on event-timing signatures. Dr. Kamen is working on a novel method for monitoring production lines based on the timing of events in manufacturing processes. In particular, a procedure is given for detecting abnormal conditions as quickly as possible so that actions can be taken to prevent catastrophic events from occurring.

• Chen Zhou, a professor in the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering is studying cell control rapid prototyping using object-oriented technology and SEMI standards. The process control rapid prototyping research focuses on the development of non-application specific, reusable control modules in manufacturing system control. Such modules can reduce system integration cost and time. The key elements in the research are standardization and object-oriented technology.

I firmly believe that partnerships such as the ones found within our multidisciplinary centers—and through organizations such as FAIM will add up to future success for all of us—industry, education, and government. Consequently, as Georgia Tech moves toward the future, we will continue to partner with industry and continue to maintain our commitment to manufacturing and industry. Currently, we are doing very well in this area. In fact, U.S. News and World Report ranks us number one in the nation for both graduate and undergraduate industrial manufacturing programs.

I assure you, we will not rest on our laurels. We are now ranked number one—and we intend to stay that way.

(Pause) It is now my pleasure to introduce your next speaker—a man very knowledgeable about the advantages of global competitiveness and the importance of manufacturing.
Through actions such as trade missions, legislative support, the introduction of two workplace training and education programs for new and expanding companies, Governor Zell Miller has demonstrated his willingness to work for an improved global outlook and economy for Georgia. Since taking office in 1991, 638 new manufacturing plants have opened in Georgia, and 2,446 existing plants have expanded their operations. This has resulted in more than 73,900 new manufacturing jobs and a total capital investment of $10.5 billion.

What I find most impressive, however, is his long-term plan for Georgia. Governor Miller believes that business and industry locate and expand in states with exceptional public education systems. He is, in fact, a leader who has been unwavering in his support of education. While other governors may claim to be the education governor, Zell Miller is the bona fide article.

A former educator himself, he has helped to revitalize Georgia’s educational system. His HOPE Scholarship Program has sent more than 176,000 Georgia students to colleges and technical schools. This year, his support enabled the University System to receive funding for every one of its special initiatives including its graduate education initiatives, which at Georgia Tech, will provide support for nanotechnology.

I recently had the pleasure of taking Georgia Tech adjunct professor and Nobel Prize Winner Paul Crutzen to meet with Governor Miller. During our conversation, Dr. Crutzen asked Governor Miller if it was difficult being a politician and an educator.

I’d like to share Governor Miller’s answer with you. He said: “It is difficult—because the politicians consider me an academic—and the academics consider me a politician.”

At Georgia Tech, we consider him an advantage for Georgia. As Governor, he’s been a tireless emissary and advocate for Georgia’s international business development. For that reason and his successful support of higher education, there is no one better to speak to us today.
Could everyone please join me in welcoming Governor Zell Miller.

Thank you.