It’s great to see such a strong turnout of students, faculty and staff, volunteering to join TEAM Buzz and spend a day working to improve the community around us.

All of you are extremely smart. You wouldn’t be here if you weren’t. But the complete human being has a heart as well as a brain. And today is our chance to show that our hearts are as great as our brains.

Marshall McLuhan once said that there are no passengers on Spaceship Earth. We are all crew. And today we, the crew, are pitching in. Because even though we live in a free society, our lives and our fates are not wholly in our own hands. They are intertwined with the lives and fates of those around us to make up the destiny of our community. We are the stewards of our communities. Simply being part of the community makes us holders of a public trust.

At Georgia Tech, we want to be a community that cares about each other and about the neighborhoods around us. We want to be a community that understands that to lead is really to serve. We want to be a community that is rich in the things that give meaning to life.

And what is it that gives meaning to life? To quote Nelson Henderson, “The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”

The benefits of your participation on TEAM Buzz will go far beyond the visible results at the end of the day. You will be helping to demonstrate that Georgia Tech is a committed neighbor who cares about our community. And by working shoulder to shoulder with students, faculty and staff from all across campus, you will be strengthening the ties that bind us together as a Georgia Tech community.

You may never sit in the shade of the trees you plant today, but you are going to find that there is tremendous satisfaction in working as part of a larger community in service to a larger cause.

On behalf of the broader Georgia Tech community, I thank you for joining TEAM Buzz for the day. Now, let’s get to work.