Good morning. I am Wayne Clough, president of the Georgia Institute of Technology. Georgia Tech is pleased to welcome this distinguished group to Atlanta, and we honored to be your host for this hearing of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

You have come to a state and a city that not only aspire to be leaders in science and technology, but are actually implementing plans to achieve that distinction. At the state level, we are engaged in a concerted effort to make Georgia a major center of software engineering and electronic design over the next five years. Georgia Tech is a leader in this initiative, and its centerpiece will be the education of a workforce of computer scientists and design engineers.

This state initiative dovetails with a Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce initiative called Industries of the Mind, which has as its goal to recruit 520 high-tech industries to the metro area. We want to make this part of Atlanta surrounding Georgia Tech into an urban interpretation of Silicon Valley.

So you can see why we are keenly interested in the agenda, activities and recommendations of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and why we are excited to host this hearing today.

Neal Lane had originally hoped to arrive in Atlanta yesterday, but he was detained in Washington and we are expecting him to join us shortly. In the meantime, Arthur Bienenstock, the associate director of the OSTP, is doing an able and articulate job of standing in for him. He spoke yesterday at the dedication of Georgia Tech’s new Biosciences and Bioengineering Building, and he is here with us this morning.

Dr. Bienenstock came to the OSTP in 1997 from Stanford University, where he was on the faculty in materials science and engineering and applied physics. He was the director of the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory for nearly two decades, leading its transition from a scientific project into a major research facility. He has also been on the faculty of Harvard University, from which he received his PhD.

At the OSTP, he has promoted the inter-dependencies of the sciences and the need for the United States to maintain broad scientific and technological strength. His other efforts include the Interagency Education Research Initiative, to allow funding of large-scale interdisciplinary research; the strengthening of the research partnership between the federal government and higher education; and the broader participation of women, minorities and the disabled in science and technology.

We are pleased to have Dr. Bienenstock with us, and I would like to invite him to stay a few words on behalf of the OSTP at this time.