Thank you, Nancy (Davis).

I’m pleased to welcome GLOBE’s national deputy director Peggy Finarelli and all of you to Atlanta and to Georgia Tech. Actually, Peggy Finarelli has visited us before and we are glad she is back. We are proud to be partners with DeKalb County Schools in hosting this GLOBE conference to train you to be trainers of K-12 teachers back home.

Every once and a while, when you add two and two together you get a synergy that gives you more than just four. That is what happens with GLOBE. GLOBE adds two needs together and gets a solution for both.

GLOBE schools conduct useful environmental measurements and provide the results to scientists. And the scientists, in turn, share the big picture to which the schools contributed, and explain how the data is used and why it is important.

What were the surface effects of El Nino? 6,000 schools in over 80 countries made weather-related measurements to help scientists answer that question.

What actually covers the ground in those Landsat photos? 6,000 schools in over 80 countries determined their exact longitude and latitude, then mapped out the surrounding vegetation.

The critical thing that makes this relationship work is the reliability of the data. Scientists have to be able to count on the students and teachers to follow correct scientific protocol and provide accurate and reliable data. And that is where all of you come in.

You are the critical link between the scientists and the schools. The training you will provide to teachers is what will generate usable data, and the flow of usable data is what makes GLOBE successful, both for the schools and the scientists. Your work, carried out in each of your home communities, has the potential to promote environmental understanding and shape the future of the Earth in far-reaching ways.

We are delighted to have you here in Atlanta. We are pleased that you are willing to undertake the task of training GLOBE teachers. And we are confident that you will prepare them well in the coming months and years.