• Pleased to welcome you to the Master Series Program.
  o You are a select group; you went through a competitive selection process to get here.
  o You were chosen because you have demonstrated your leadership potential.
  o We believe that an opportunity to improve your leadership abilities will benefit both the Institute and you personally.

• The purpose of the Masters Series is to help Georgia Tech develop our own internal executive leadership talent.
  o We want to develop the next generation of technology leaders who will help us gain a competitive advantage in a global economy.
  o We need to take the same approach to developing the next generation of leaders for Georgia Tech, because having competent leaders is the ultimate competitive advantage.

• As President, I placed priority on providing funding from my own budget for this program, because I believe it is important for Georgia Tech to cultivate our own leadership talent.
  o We can hold on to top-notch employees by preparing them for advancement opportunities here at Tech.
  o We can build bench strength and depth for when today’s leaders retire. (Lots of gray hair at the senior level today.)
  o We can increase the diversity in our management ranks. If you look around at your fellow participants, you can see the diversity of this group – men and women, minority and white, academic and administrative.

• The Georgia Tech Masters Series will give you an opportunity to:
  o Learn more about the breadth of the Institute outside the particular unit where you work and about its overarching goals and ambitions.
  o Hone your skills in leading teams, managing projects, and making presentations.
  o Learn from mentors and senior leaders at Tech
  o Evaluate your personal skills and see how they line up with opportunities.

• What makes a leader?
  o Hard work: Branch Rickey said, “The harder I work the luckier I get.”
  o Good decisions: Nobody makes it on hard work alone; good decisions are essential. Nobody is 100% at making good decisions, but to succeed you have to make mostly good decisions and be ready to recognize and fix the bad ones quickly.
  o Vision: Be able to see past the immediate challenges and chaos of the day and set a steady direction toward long-term goals.
- People skills: Every problem and every opportunity is the result of something someone has done and will be addressed by what someone does.
  - Servant leadership

- Quality has always been very important to Georgia Tech.
  - It’s how we got into the top 10 public universities in the nation
  - Our goal continues to be to increase the excellence of our programs and our operations.
  - That requires talented employees with leadership skills.
  - The Masters Series will help us identify and cultivate those leaders.