It is a pleasure to welcome all of you to Georgia Tech for this meeting of the Motorola Science Advisory Board Associates. We are honored to be your hosts and have this opportunity to engage in conversation with you.

Georgia Tech is a public university that was created by the state legislature in 1885 to help the state move from an economy based on agriculture to an industrial economy. Today our mission is similar – to help Georgia move from an industrial economy to an economy based on technology.

We are known as an engineering school, and there is a reason for that reputation. We have a responsibility to the state as its only public engineering school, which has made us the nation’s largest producer of engineers at all degree levels combined. And we have a commitment to academic rigor and excellence that has made us one of the nation’s top five engineering programs.

But there is much more to Georgia Tech than engineering. We have five other colleges, including sciences, computing, management, architecture, and the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts. We educate business managers who know how to manage technology, and our outstanding programs in public policy, international affairs, foreign languages, and literature, communications and culture attract an increasing number of students who want to study these liberal arts disciplines in a technology-rich environment.

Georgia Tech is also a leader in helping to diversify the science and technology workforce. We are the nation’s number one producer of women engineers at all degree levels combined, and we are a leader in graduating minority engineers.

In addition to educating more than 16,000 students, Georgia Tech conducts more than $340 million in sponsored research a year. We are second in the nation in the volume of our engineering research, and third in the research we conduct in collaboration with industry. More than 200 major corporations have ongoing research interests with Georgia Tech, including Motorola.

Motorola was a founding member of Georgia Tech’s Manufacturing Research Center, due to the interest of Ray Farmer, who graduated from Georgia Tech in 1949 and went on to become executive vice president of Motorola and general manager of the communications sector. And after his death in 1999, Ray’s family endowed the R. S. Farmer Chair in Embedded Systems, held by Ramesh Jain.

Motorola has also been an important industry partner in a long list of other academic units and programs at Georgia Tech. You are an industrial partner with the College of Computing, and you have supported the Georgia Tech Analog Consortium, the Broadband Institute, and the Packaging Research Center in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Motorola has
also supported individual faculty research in the schools of mechanical engineering, industrial and systems engineering and chemical engineering.

You have also been a big supporter of Georgia Tech’s efforts to attract the world’s leading scholars in electrical engineering, whom you will have a chance to meet today. The Motorola Foundation provided funding for the Motorola Foundation Chair, which is part of the Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar initiative and is held by Fred Juang, who is on this morning’s agenda, and for the Motorola Foundation Professorship, which is held by Gary May, who is chairing this session.

Motorola presently employs almost 250 Georgia Tech alumni, so other company contributions to Georgia Tech have naturally focused on students. You have been an important supporter of Women in Engineering and the Office of Minority Educational Development for current students at Georgia Tech, as well as the Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics and Computing, which is Georgia Tech’s initiative to serve K-12 students and teachers. Motorola is also a major partner in our co-op program, providing Georgia Tech students with valuable on-the-job experience as they work their way through school.

These are some of the many ways Motorola has been engaged with Georgia Tech over the years, and we are deeply grateful for the support you have given us and the confidence you have shown in us. In return, we are proud to be able to assist Motorola through providing co-op students and graduates as employees, through research discoveries, and through continuing education programs that serve your employees.

We also value the personal side of our relationship with Motorola. Christopher Galvin’s father Bob has been a special guest lecturer. We had a long-time personal acquaintance with Bobbi Gutman at the Motorola Foundation, and we are learning to know Joyce Stearns who replace her. And finally, we are delighted to welcome Padmasree Warrior back to our campus. She visited us before when she was based in the Atlanta Motorola operation, and it is wonderful to have her here again today.

So, welcome to all of you. We are very pleased that you are here, and we look forward to telling you more about some of the exciting work that is going on here at Georgia Tech.