Pleased to welcome everyone to this dedication ceremony for the R. Kirk Landon Learning Center.

Here at Georgia Tech, we often talk about “life-long learning” and most of the time we are referring to the fact that in today’s rapidly changing world you education isn’t over when you get your college degree. You have to keep on learning throughout your adult years. Today, at this dedication ceremony, we acknowledge that a lot of learning also takes place before you ever get to college.

In the title of his popular book, Robert Fuhlgum claimed that he learned everything he really needed to know in kindergarten. But we know that children learn a tremendous amount even before they get to kindergarten. And the Landon Learning Center is going to get the children from Georgia Tech and Home Park off to a great start.

This beautiful new facility helps Georgia Tech achieve several goals:
- Make our Tech community more family-friendly; more attractive to graduate students and young faculty and staff who are just starting their families. These are folks who understand the value of education and are especially interested in getting their children off to a good start.
- Work in close partnership with our surrounding neighborhoods to address our mutual needs. Affordable quality child care is one of those mutual needs

Landon Learning Center is the result of a partnership. Want to recognize and introduce the partners in the process that created this facility and ask them to stand:
- Representing the Home Park Community Improvement Association: Susan Barnes, Jennifer Burke, James Domenech, and Tim State
- From the City of Atlanta: Charles Graves, Commissioner of Planning, Neighborhoods and Conservation
- From Georgia Tech: Senior Vice President Bob Thompson and Associate Vice President for Human Resources Chuck Donbaugh

Center is overseen by a not-for-profit board, and would like to ask members to stand and be recognized:
- From Georgia Tech: Chuck Donbaugh, Jean Fuller
- From the community: Richard Cheatham
• The bottom line is that the construction of this Center was made possible by several generous donors, and especially want to recognize them:
  o **R. Kirk Landon**, IM 1950, made the lead gift to support construction of the Center, which is named in his honor
  o **Sharen Hausmann**, director of GELI, the Georgia Early Learning Initiative
  o GELI board member, **Teresa Rivero**, who also represents the Woodruff Foundation and the Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation
  o **Roger H. Brown Sr., CE 1952, and Carolyn Brown**

• The most important group here today is the children who are enrolled at the Landon Learning Center. At this time I would like to introduce a group of them to perform a song for us.

(SONG)

• Thank you for that special song. The Landon Learning Center is managed by Bright Horizons, and at this time I would like to invite **Jackie Legg**, senior vice president of Bright Horizons, to make a few comments on behalf of President and CEO Roger H. Brown Jr., who is unable to be with us today.

(MS. LEGG SPEAKS)

• It is now my privilege to introduce the man for whom this special facility is named.
  o Kirk Landon is CEO of American Bankers Insurance Group in Miami, Florida – not a position that would lead one to naturally assume that he knows a lot about early childhood education or has a keen interest in it.
  
  o But he established a childcare center at the front door of his corporate campus, because he understood early on that quality child care was an asset that would help him recruit and retain a qualified work force for his company.
  
  o Later, Kirk built an elementary school on his company’s corporate campus and contracted with the Miami Dade School System to provide the educational services.
  
  o Since his retirement, he has partnered with the Annenberg Foundation to author a “how to” book for companies wishing to establish their own childcare centers.
  
  o He has given generously of his financial resources, his expertise, and his experience to guide us as we developed this childcare facility for the children of Georgia Tech and Home Park and we are most grateful for his help.
I would also mention Mr. Landon’s generous commitment to Human Resources in 1994, which established an employee training and education program at Tech that evolved into Super Train. Our training and education programs have received recognition by the State of Georgia and by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Kirk, we thank you for your generosity and your vision that made this special childcare center a reality for our community. I invite you to make a few remarks.

(MR. LANDON SPEAKS)

- At this time I would like to invite Kirk Landon, Sharen Hausmann, Roger and Carolyn Brown, and Jackie Legg to join me in the foyer to unveil the dedication plaque.

- Unfortunately, the space is not sufficient for everyone to participate in the unveiling, so I would like to invite the rest of you to enjoy refreshments in the Toddler Room and then to tour the facility.

- Please remember that a large number of unfamiliar “big people” can be disruptive and even alarming to small children. So we ask that you please DO NOT enter the children’s rooms. As you leave the facility, please take a moment in the foyer to view the dedication plaque.

- Thank you for coming, and enjoy your visit.