Thank you. We are especially honored to have Senator Chip Rogers with us today, as well as Bill Cronin. We appreciate your support of ATDC and what you’re doing to help economic growth in Georgia.

This is the season for graduations. Last weekend, we had two ceremonies at the Georgia Dome where we granted degrees to 2,500 undergraduate and graduate students. We use the term commencement rather than graduation, and that is appropriate today as well. It is a beginning.

In Georgia Tech’s commencement ceremonies this past weekend I said that success in life is seldom a one-person effort, and provided an opportunity to recognize family and friends who came alongside our graduates to help ensure their success.

Many of the entrepreneurs today started with an idea, turned that into an innovation and then looked around to find an environment where the right mix of support and opportunities to link up with the right people and resources would be available. From the testimonies of the CEO’s of these new companies in the program, they know that they came to the right place.

ATDC was the nation’s first university-based technology incubator and is widely known as one of the best. It has launched more than 75 companies within the last ten years, and including today’s eight graduating companies that makes 83, if my math is correct!

ATDC is an important component of Georgia Tech’s economic development program. Since Georgia Tech was founded more than 127 years ago, innovation and economic development have been a vital part of the Institute’s culture. We’re in the second year of implementing Georgia Tech’ 25-year Strategic Plan. Innovation is a primary goal —
ensuring that innovation, entrepreneurship and public service are fundamental characteristics of Georgia Tech graduates, and partnering with business and industry. We are committed to creating an environment that fosters technology transfer and commercialization, and we have a track record of success that in turn helps businesses to become successful. ATDC is a flagship in that effort. It serves as the hub for technology entrepreneurship in Georgia.

To get a little perspective on the potential of the companies that are graduating today let me briefly share just a few success stories from recent years. A 2008 graduate of the ATDC, Vendormate is a vendor credentialing company that has been included on the Inc. 500 list of the fastest-growing U.S. companies. Vendormate bridges healthcare providers and suppliers to ensure that both sides know more about who they are doing business with today and who they should do business with tomorrow.

A 2009 graduate of the ATDC, Suniva manufactures high-efficiency crystalline silicon photovoltaic solar cells and high-power solar modules. The company uses patented, low-cost manufacturing techniques and industry-leading technology to produce its high-quality products and maintain competitive. The technology behind Suniva’s original product was based on research done at Georgia Tech.

Also a 2009 graduate of ATDC, Innovolt provides a comprehensive electronics power protection and management platform that keeps electronic equipment safe from common power disturbances that damage electronics. The company, which serves both business and consumer needs, grew out of research conducted at Georgia Tech.

A 2011 ATDC graduate, SoloHealth is a healthcare technology and data analytics company that enables consumers to take charge of their own health. The company’s first product, Eyesite, is an interactive self-service vision testing kiosk. Its newest product is the SoloHealth Station, which will offer vision, blood pressure and body mass index testing in stores and other locations.
We are privileged to partner with so many innovative companies, and, as they become successful, it will also benefit the State of Georgia and the region.

Many of you are getting a rare insiders look at ATDC today, as most of the organization’s activities are just for member companies. I know that as you have the opportunity to get a high level overview of these companies, you will begin to feel the excitement and get a vision for the potential of what they can become.

Thank you.