Dr. Peterson  
Africa Atlanta 2014  
6:25 p.m. Thursday, May 15, 2014, Carter Center Library and Museum

Please allow me to add my welcome from Georgia Tech. Like France-Atlanta, Africa Atlanta 2014 richly embodies Georgia Tech’s strategic commitment to support the economic development of our region and global engagement. “KONGO across the WATERS” has been two years in the making, and it’s tremendously exciting to see it finally come to fruition right here in Atlanta.

Congratulations Dean Royster for your leadership of this ambitious initiative and for developing an extraordinary collaboration of local, national, and international partners across four continents.

Through the work of the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts and that of the many distinguished partners and sponsors of this initiative, we are helping to increase understanding of contemporary Africa and global, cross-cultural innovation bridging liberal arts and technologies.

The exhibition we will see tonight highlights the arts. Africa Atlanta 2014 encompasses business and innovation, education, and global affairs including health and human rights.

It’s appropriate that Georgia Tech is engaged in this great project. Ours is a global institution, with students representing 115 different countries. More than 46 percent of Georgia Tech students have an international experience by graduation.

And while I’m before you, this seems an appropriate time to announce the winner of the 2014 Ivan Allen Jr. Prize for Social Courage. It is an award that Georgia Tech has given since 2011 to recognize individuals who, by standing up for clear moral principles
in the social arena, have positively affected public discourse at the risk of their own careers, livelihoods, and even their lives.

In fact, it was Georgia Tech’s privilege to award the 2002 Ivan Allen Jr. Award for Progress and Service, which was the forerunner to the Prize for Social Courage, to President Jimmy Carter.

This year’s winner of the Ivan Allen Jr. Prize for Social Courage is Beatrice Mtetwa, a prominent human rights attorney from Zimbabwe. She is the first woman to receive the prize. Ms. Mtetwa will be honored Nov. 13 during a ceremony at Georgia Tech.

And now I’d like to introduce a distinguished Georgian — and a Georgia Tech alumnus, I might add. His work with Habitat for Humanity and the Carter Center has helped make our world a better place. The 39th president of the United States, President Jimmy Carter.