Good morning ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the dedication of the Caterpillar Integrated Manufacturing Laboratory. We trust you will each be as excited as we are about the possibilities of manufacturing education after the dedication of this state of the art facility.

I would like to extend a special welcome to those seated at the front of the room; President Al Bowman, Mr. Scott Luthy from Caterpillar, Representative Dan Brady, Associate VP Dr. Rod Custer, and Dr. Rick Boser, Chairperson of the Technology Department.

I would also like to recognize the faculty who have been instrumental in the lab design and development. Please join me in recognizing Professors Kevin Devine, Dave Kennell, and Ken Stier. This is their vision incarnate.

I would also like to acknowledge VP Diane Ashby, Provost John Presley, Associate Provost Jan Shane, and Assistant Provost Chuck McGuire for their support of this project. And, I would like to acknowledge the fine work of Associate Deans Marilyn Morrow and Alan Lacy for making today a reality.
And, last, join me in recognizing the students who have worked diligently on making today a reality. They have planned some exciting things for you—certainly things that will mark this dedication as unique and interesting.

Today marks the culmination of years of vision and work. On behalf of CAST, we appreciate the input and guidance from our University facility design staff. I would like to recognize Dr. Runner and Ms. Christine Tsui. Without your expertise, this effort would have surely been difficult.

The importance of this lab cannot be overstated. Having facilities like this are critical for us to fulfill our mission and our obligation to the citizenry of Illinois. It also enables us to educate our students using modern equipment that we have come to rely upon so heavily in many of our programs.

This lab would not have been possible without the generosity of Caterpillar. A world class company that realizes how important an investment into educational infrastructure can be. Caterpillar’s investment in creating this facility demonstrates their commitment to providing future generations with opportunities to study, to experience, and to learn. The development of this lab stands as a model for education and industry partnership to create a mutually beneficial learning experience.
It is now my sincere pleasure to introduce the 17th President of Illinois State University, Dr. Al Bowman.