Remarks at Student Fitness/KNR Building Groundbreaking Ceremony
October 16, 2008

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen and welcome. And thank you President Bowman. I am honored to have the opportunity to join you and other distinguished guests at the podium today. It isn't often that we have the opportunity to celebrate the groundbreaking of a new building. Frank Lloyd Wright said, “I know the price of success: dedication, hard work, and an unremitting devotion to the things you want to see happen.”

This project would not have been possible without the strong collaboration, persistence and excellent work of many people over an extended period of time. This certainly includes President Bowman and the ISU Trustees who have steadfastly supported this project as well as the students themselves.
So "thank you" to everyone for making the Student Fitness/Kinesiology and Recreation Building a reality. We can be assured that this beautiful building will serve the needs of our faculty and students for many years to come.

This building is important to us academically. It will provide us with much needed classroom and laboratory space for teaching and conducting research in Athletic Training, Biomechanics, Exercise Physiology, Psychology of Sport & Physical Activity, Physical Education Teacher Education, Recreation, and Sport Management. With the state of the art facilities to be built at this site, our faculty will continue to provide exemplary instruction, produce quality research, and have new opportunities for campus and community partnerships.

When finished, this building will incorporate part of McCormick Hall into a modern facility. This design will permit us to venerate the past while incorporating future needs. The building will surely become a place for recreating as well as studying. In essence, it will be the “place” to be.
Like many teachers who give a little of themselves to each of their students, McCormick Hall will soon give way to be completely rebuilt into a new building which spans University Street and will cover approximately 6 acres. McCormick has been in constant use for 83 years and has been modified many times. Many dreams were fulfilled in McCormick as coaches, administrators, and faculty mentored students pursuing degrees. McCormick Hall left its mark on many university citizens and friends who witnessed varsity basketball games and swimming events. As a new building is constructed behind the classic facade of McCormick Hall, all may rest assured that new dreams will be nurtured and fulfilled and that traditions of excellence will link past with future.

Thank you all very much for celebrating this important event today.