Thank you, Mike. And thank you all for being here for the grand opening of Iowa State’s Economic Development Core Facility!

This is a great day – not only for Iowa State – but for the state of Iowa and our economy!

While the opening of a new building is always exciting, we’re celebrating much more than that today. We’re celebrating the tremendous potential for economic growth and development in Iowa and Iowa State’s important role in promoting that growth.

I’m pleased to have many special guests with us today for this occasion. I’d like to recognize:

- Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds,
- Director of the Iowa Department of Transportation Paul Trombino,
- Members of our legislative delegation, and
- The Board of Regents.

Every chance I get, I advocate the importance of partnerships. Iowa State strives to be the most responsive, flexible, and agile university partner in the country. We know that educating students and conducting research is not enough. We need to connect our students and our research with communities and companies as well as industry and government to meet society’s needs, solve problems, and improve lives.

Iowa State has a number of programs that are charged with doing just that – making connections, fostering partnerships, and putting our students and our research to work.

Individually, these programs do an exceptional job of working with everyone from high-level executives to budding entrepreneurs, and the resulting impact on our economy is substantial. I’d like to share just a few examples:

Last year, the Iowa Small Business Development Centers worked with small business owners and entrepreneurs to create a new business in our state every 27 hours… four new jobs every single day… and increase sales by $5.2 million dollars per month.

Another example – CIRAS brings industry and university experts together to create and provide research-based solutions and services to businesses. Last year, CIRAS assisted more than 15-hundred businesses in all 99 counties, resulting in more than 51-hundred jobs created or retained in our state.

And one final example – Iowa State has one of the most robust technology transfer programs. Never before have we been as aggressive in accelerating the commercialization of our research – and it’s paying off! Over the past five years, companies that are licensing technologies developed at Iowa State generated $2.6 BILLION in sales from our innovations.

We’re extremely proud of that success!
Remarks as prepared for delivery by Steven Leath, ISU President

But now consider the impact these programs could have if we streamlined access and coordination.

The Economic Development Core Facility provides the necessary infrastructure to make that happen!

No longer will you have to drive all over the city:
  - to the CIRAS offices at 13th and Stange,
  - to the Research Foundation out west on State Avenue, or
  - the Cultivation Corridor office on Main Street.

Distance alone made integrated access, collaboration, and communication a challenge… until now! The Core Facility brings all of these programs together in one centralized, convenient location.

I’d like to recognize all of the offices that will “live” in this building. Would you please raise your hand if you work for:
  - The Office of Economic Development and Industry Relations led by Mike Crum;
  - The Research Park and
  - The Pappajohn Center for Entrepreneurship led by Steve Carter;
  - The Cultivation Corridor led by Brent Willet;
  - The ISU Research Foundation and
  - The Office of Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer led by Lisa Lorenzen;
  - The Center for Industrial Research and Service led by Ron Cox; and
  - Iowa Small Business Development Centers led by Lisa Shimkat.

Thank you for your dedication to Iowa State’s economic and service mission!

(Applause)

As the gateway to nearly all of Iowa State’s economic resources, tools, and expertise, the Economic Development Core Facility is truly a one-stop-shop. And it enables Iowa State to provide services in a more comprehensive and integrated way.

It’s no coincidence that the Core Facility is located on Collaboration Place. Not only will this facility enable collaboration among our economic development offices and programs, but the Core Facility is also the cornerstone for the Research Park’s major expansion. It anchors this area which has been dubbed “Hub Square.” And with the addition of the new Café restaurant and other amenities, this will be the primary social and professional gathering spot for all Research Park employees as well as visiting executives and entrepreneurs.

We’re purposefully and strategically enhancing the environment here at the Research Park to support collaboration and partnerships. And the Core Facility certainly represents that effort when you consider the number of partners who helped make this facility a reality.
I’d like to start by recognizing and thanking Governor Branstad, Lt. Governor Reynolds, and our legislature for their very generous support. We are so grateful for their approval of $12 million to fund the construction of this building.

I would also like to thank:
- The Board of Regents for their leadership;
- The Iowa Economic Development Authority under the leadership of Debi Durham;
- The Iowa Department of Transportation under the leadership of Paul Trombino;
- The Ames Chamber and Economic Development Commission under the leadership of Dan Culhane;
- Ames Mayor Ann Campbell;
- The Ames City Council;
- Mike Crum, Steve Carter, Miles Lackey, and Warren Madden who did much of the heavy lifting on Iowa State’s end; and
- The many others who have been involved with this project and the Research Park expansion.

Let’s give them a hand!

(Applause)

Governor Branstad signed legislation establishing Iowa State’s Research Park nearly 30 years ago. Today the Park has become a dynamic location for growth and development. Most recently, the Park was home to more than 80 companies, research centers, and affiliates; nearly 1800 employees; and more than 200 student interns.

With the expansion of the Park and the opening of the Core Facility, we expect to more than triple the number of employees here in the next 10 to 15 years!

Much of that growth is projected in the agbiosciences and biotech, advanced manufacturing, and information technology… thanks in large part to our coordinated efforts to promote Iowa State and the Research Park’s leading role in the Cultivation Corridor.

We’re raising the profile not only of the Park, but of the university, the community, and the state with the success of companies such as:
- Boehringer Ingelheim – named one of the most innovative companies in the world;
- Workiva – ranked one of the fastest growing companies in North America;
- NewLink Genetics – a pioneer in immunotherapy treatments for cancer and vaccines for infectious diseases like Zika and Ebola; and
- Harrissvaccines – considered a global leader in animal vaccine technology.

We’re also pleased to have many long-standing partnerships with Iowa-based companies such as Pella Corporation and Vermeer Corporation. These companies are leveraging the Park’s resources to augment and strengthen their operations around the state.

I look forward to how the Core Facility will fuel this momentum and our state’s economic engine. This facility positions us to do an even better job of supporting the growth and expansion of high-quality companies and attracting top talent. It’s all the more reason why Ames is
Remarks as prepared for delivery by Steven Leath, ISU President

deserving of the title as one of the best cities in the country for STEM graduates! We know STEM education and economic development continue to be key priorities for Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds. She and Governor Branstad have successfully attracted billion-dollar economic development projects for our state and expanded trade opportunities across the globe.

Iowa State is proud to partner with the Lt. Governor to enhance access to STEM programs for students, especially underrepresented students and those from underserved communities.

I am grateful for her confidence in Iowa State and her support as we work to strengthen the state’s economic enterprise. Please join me in welcoming Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds!

(Applause)