Thank you for the opportunity to discuss Iowa State’s FY17 General University Operating Budget.

**Budget Priorities**

Our primary focus in our budget development process is the success, safety, and well-being of our growing student body.

We’re very proud that many of the best and brightest students across Iowa, the nation, and the world continue to choose Iowa State in record numbers. And more Iowa high school students and transfer students are choosing Iowa State than any other school in the country. This is a remarkable testament to the high value of an Iowa State degree.

We remain committed to access and affordability – but we also recognize that without sufficient resources, our quality is at risk, which threatens the value of that degree.

To that end, we continue to work diligently to make the very best use of every tax dollar and tuition dollar we receive. We strive to operate as efficiently and effectively as possible, to identify partnership opportunities and eliminate redundancies while promoting our unique strengths.

We’re committed to investing new revenue in ways that will support student success and well-being now and in the future.

With this priority as our focus, we framed our FY 17 budget around four areas of emphasis consistent with our strategic plan:

1. Enhancing access and maintaining an exceptional educational and overall experience.
2. Expanding research and scholarly promotion to address the grand challenges of the 21st century.
3. Promoting job creation to benefit our graduates and all Iowans and improving quality of life through economic development initiatives and service to the state.
4. And enhancing a welcoming, inclusive, and safe campus environment for all.

**Sources of Revenue**

Our incremental revenue projections for FY17 reflect an increase to our general university state appropriation, as approved by the legislature, and new tuition revenue.
Funding Commitments
Through a combination of new funding and reallocations – which is outlined in specific detail in your docket material – we are making targeted investments to support the success, safety, and well-being of our growing student body. I’d like to highlight a few specific key initiatives:

New investments will address two critical safety and well-being issues affecting college campuses across the country, including here at Iowa State: mental health care and sexual misconduct prevention.

We plan to hire additional psychologists and add staff to our student counseling services to ensure we have a sufficient number of highly skilled people providing quality mental health services. This will also help reduce wait times for students seeking care and treatment.

We will also establish a new position for a sexual misconduct prevention coordinator. This will advance the university’s sexual misconduct prevention efforts as part of our new comprehensive Health, Wellness, and Safety initiative.

We continue to see significant growth in our international student population. In many cases these are students who have left their support system – their family and friends – and traveled half-way around the world to attend Iowa State. In an effort to ensure a successful transition and positive college experience, we will increase staff in the International Students and Scholars Office, as well as expand arrival services, writing center support, and peer-to-peer mentoring programs. We also plan to hire a dedicated international student liaison police officer.

Additional investments will be made for programming and staff to support the creation of a safer, more welcoming and inclusive campus environment for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

Iowa State prides itself on providing personal instruction and attention to our students from first-rate faculty and staff. In order to maintain this expectation with record enrollment, we will continue to hire faculty in high-demand/high-impact fields to improve our student-to-faculty ratio, and add advising support.

We also were intentional this year to make investments to ensure we can be competitive in retaining our top faculty and staff. You can have the best facilities and technology, but it’s truly our people who elevate the excellence of our academic, student support, research, and service programs across the university.

Our nationally-recognized Learning Communities program has proven to be a vital resource for student retention and success. We plan to expand this program with the addition of two new communities.
Remarks as prepared for delivery by Steven Leath, ISU President

Additional resources will help expand our research and scholarly enterprise through the recruitment of top graduate students and enhancements to retention initiatives. In addition, we’ll recruit exceptional faculty and support start-up costs for their research programs.

Modest new investments will be leveraged with reallocated funds from the Office of Economic Development and Industry Relations to support economic development and assistance initiatives.

Finally, we will continue to make accessibility a priority by increasing investments in financial aid and scholarships in order to ease the financial burden for our students and their families.

We’ve been diligently supporting this priority over the past 5 years by also raising significant private funds for our students. In fact, we just received updated numbers for our 5-year Moving Students Forward campaign – we’ve now raised nearly $189 million of our $200 million goal. And those private dollars are used exclusively for student support and scholarships.