• Thank you very much, and good morning.

• This is a great day, indeed.

• Today, we are celebrating the culmination of an effort that will provide Macomb County businesses with an unprecedented level of support.

• As you know, Oakland has already played an integral role in the county by closely aligning higher education with emerging employment needs.

• At Oakland, we are forming partnerships – much like this one – with business and industry, government entities, area schools, hospitals and healthcare organizations.

• Through our efforts, we will foster new investment and create jobs throughout the county, particularly in the growing business sectors of defense and homeland security and alternative energy.

• It is a fundamental role of any university to engage with the community and to assist in finding solutions to current challenges.

• This incubator will help entrepreneurs transform ideas into new business ventures, develop patents and see their original ideas make their way into commercial markets, thus creating jobs.

• Time does not permit me to thank all of the people here today who were instrumental in making the Macomb-Oakland University Incubator a reality.

• I will say, however, that the business leaders and government officials who worked so hard to bring the incubator to Macomb County deserve our profound gratitude.

• I would like to commend David Spencer for his outstanding leadership in helping to bring this incubator to Macomb County.

• And thank you all for joining us here today for this very important announcement.