Summit Welcome and Comments

Hello. I am Charles Reed, Chancellor of the California State University, and it is my pleasure to welcome you to this uniquely significant event – the CSU Mathematics and Science Teacher Summit.

Our purpose today has been to bring together the individuals from our 23 campuses who are leading the CSU Mathematics and Science Teacher Initiative and corporate and education partners in this effort.

Our shared goal is to double the number of highly qualified math and science teachers that our system produces annually by the year 2010.

The Higher Education compact between Gov. Schwarzenegger and the CSU and University of California identified the critical shortage of K-12 math and science teachers as a major priority. The summit is intended to lay the groundwork to achieve this goal.

This Summit will help identify challenges, opportunities, and strategies to recruit and train more highly qualified math and science teachers.

CSU has the capacity to build on its strengths in the fields of education, mathematics, science, engineering, and technology to achieve this goal.

In 2004-05, CSU awarded 651 math, 1,930 biological sciences, and 516 physical sciences (chemistry, geosciences, and physics) undergraduate degrees.

This initiative will reach out to other students as well – those with backgrounds in business, agriculture, nutritional sciences, engineering, and computer sciences.

It will include significant attention to those not yet on our campuses – to career changers. This includes mathematics and science professionals in a variety of fields who are interested in teaching.

The CSU approach is a comprehensive strategy utilizing a range of approaches responsive to these different populations. The most successful and cost-effective designs will be scaled up over the next four years and sustained thereafter.

Central to CSU’s overall strategy and integral to each of the components are alliances with corporate, foundation, and education partners. The Boeing Company has been an early partner in our efforts.
I am therefore very pleased to introduce Rick Stephens, Senior Vice President for Human Resources and Administration, of the Boeing Company, to provide his welcome.

Rick has been a pre-eminent national spokesman for corporate alliances in support of math and science excellence. He serves as a member of Secretary of Education Spelling's Commission on the Future Higher Education, on the Business Higher Education Forum. He received his Master of Science in computer science from CSU, Fullerton, and we are proud of his national pre-eminence in the areas we are addressing today.

I am now very pleased to introduce Warren Baker, President of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, who will lead the Proceedings of the Summit today.