

Remarks by Dr. Stan Liberty, President  
Kettering University

at the

Groundbreaking Ceremony Celebrating The Flint Center of Energy  
Excellence

Friday, Sept. 26, 2008

Thank you Dr. Harris. On behalf of the entire Kettering University  
Community - students, faculty, staff, alumni and over 600 corporate  
partners - I extend a warm welcome to the dignitaries on this platform:

His Majesty Carl XVI Gustaf, King of Sweden;

Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm;

Swedish Ambassador to the United States Jonas Hafstrom;

United States Ambassador to Sweden Michael Wood;

United States Senator Debbie Stabenow;

State Representative Lee Gonzales;

City of Flint Mayor Don Williamson;

President and CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation,

Jim Epolito;

and

President and CEO of the C. S. Mott Foundation, Bill White.

(Applause)

I also welcome all of you, who are here to share in this very special ceremony and historic occasion. Today marks a new beginning – the establishment of the Flint Center of Energy Excellence - a key step in the process of developing a new economic future for this region of Michigan; and the beginning of a new collaboration among government, higher education, and industry that spans two countries - a collaboration spotlighted by the ceremonial groundbreaking you will soon observe.

Your Majesty and Governor Granholm – some might find it surprising that a private, independent institution of higher education would be as passionate as Kettering is about reaching out to its local community and the surrounding region; but, I assure you that the self adopted mission and vision of Kettering University embrace the spirit of this collaboration.

Kettering is committed to applying its intellectual and physical assets to

help achieve the goals of this partnership and help build (what I like to call) a “back to the future” economy for this region.

You see, this institution and its surrounding neighborhood have been the site of many technological advancements over the past century. Here by the Flint River, 100 years ago, there was an entrepreneurial spirit and vision second to none.

This institution is named after the famous inventor, Charles “Boss” Kettering, whose numerous technological contributions included the invention of the electric “self starter” for automobiles – a technology that was catalytic to the incredible early growth of the automotive industry.

This region is now rediscovering that spirit, and I see a new vision developing here. Our “back to the future” economy will be more diverse but still significantly based on scientific and technological creativity and innovation.

All of us at Kettering University are proud to be part of this initiative and we are deeply honored and appreciative that the dignitaries on this platform and you are here to celebrate this new beginning with us.