I have met many scientists who work on the CUTTING EDGE of their disciplines. They’re nothing like the people in this room. You work on a cutting edge SO SMALL you can’t SEE IT, much less SHARPEN IT!

Thanks to you, the FUTURE IS UNFOLDING here at the Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology.
In just four years, CNST has expanded its mission to address FIVE AREAS of nanoscale research, each holding promise for critical advances in our knowledge ABOUT ATOMS and how we may PUT THEM TO WORK.

CNST is also intent on developing a nanotechnology curriculum, so we may prepare the next generation of educators to TRANSFER THE KNOWLEDGE your research generates.

Think BIG. Work SMALL. TOGETHER.
This year, we welcome OUR NEW PARTNERS from Washington University in St. Louis. Together, through the Siteman Center for Nanotechnology Excellence, we will ADVANCE MEDICAL SCIENCE. What we develop to combat disease ON A TINY SCALE will undoubtedly have an impact ON A BROAD SCALE.

We also welcome our COLLEAGUES AND PARTNERS from the National Cancer Institute and the National Institutes of Health, plus OUR BUSINESS ASSOCIATES: Intel, IBM and EpiWorks, which is based here in Champaign-Urbana.
Illinois is a PREEMINENT public research university with a HERITAGE OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS that serve the common good, and improve the human condition.

I believe it is OUR MORAL OBLIGATION to dedicate our resources to ADVANCING HUMAN HEALTH. That is why I am especially pleased that this center has joined with the Siteman Center TO TARGET CANCER in a five-year program supported by the National Science Foundation.

Our relationship with Washington University’s medical school greatly adds to our portfolio of nanomedicine research. Last fall, CNST joined EIGHT INSTITUTIONS around the world in the GEM4 initiative to research nanotechnology solutions for INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
Illinois and our College of Engineering committed $500,000 to create the Center for Intra-Cellular Mechanics, which will sponsor workshops.

Think BIG. Work SMALL. TOGETHER.

Equally significant is the NSF’s support for a new outlet for the COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES that nanoscale research will generate. The Center for Nanoscale Chemical-Electrical-Mechanical Manufacturing Systems—Nano-CEMMS, for short—UNITES the extensive RESEARCH CAPABILITIES of Illinois, the California Institute of Technology at Pasadena, and North Carolina A&T State University.
Together, we will develop nanomanufacturing systems that will propel a concept FROM IDEA INTO REALITY.

The nanoscale research these groups are doing in electronics, photonics, materials, manufacturing and medicine is not only bringing the future closer. IT IS FURTHER VERIFYING the multidisciplinary approach to scientific research that we at Illinois have PIONEERED for decades.

Under CNST’s auspices, Illinois researchers and scholars from SEVEN COLLEGES and more than TWENTY DEPARTMENTS work together. An Illinois hallmark, collaborations such as these have become COMMONPLACE.
And they extend FAR BEYOND our campus, as our work with the Siteman Center and Nano-CEMMS demonstrates.

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I was provost when CNST was born as a virtual umbrella under which to SHELTER and NURTURE nanoscale research at Illinois. As chancellor, I’m delighted with its NOTABLE GROWTH and SWIFT MATURATION.

Every day, CNST demonstrates that nanoscale research is not SCIENCE FICTION. Multidisciplinary teams are EXPLORING nanoscale mechanisms and nanotubes for DNA repair, for MEASURING blood glucose levels, for IMAGING estrogen receptors in breast tumor cells.
These and other ambitious research efforts have set CNST on a course that DISTINGUISHES Illinois and its partners from others in the nanoscale technology field.

I anticipate that, as with other research programs and facilities at Illinois, CNST will GROW IN STATURE and IMPACT as its scholarship not only prescribes the course of nanoscale research, but also makes the world A HEALTHIER PLACE.

Through CNST, with our partners, we shall think BIG, work SMALL. TOGETHER. Thank you.

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