

[Background music]

>> Steven Stepanek: Thank you all for coming today. On behalf of the faculty at California State University Northridge welcome to CSU the next 50 years. Cut the music. [laughter] My name is Steven Stepanek. I'm a professor of computer science here at California State University Northridge and I'm also the current faculty president and for some of you that are visiting from other campuses one of the duties of the faculty president is that you're also the chair of the faculty senate. This conference is actually the second of three events in a series conceived, organized and managed through the dedicated efforts of a group of faculty from across multiple disciplines here at Northridge. After receiving a resolution of support from the CSU faculty senate the planning committee initially worked with the senate's faculty retreat planning committee to assist in organizing a half-day event that was back in January that was titled, "The Times They Are Changing," and, yes, many of us do remember that old song. As part of the annual faculty retreat activities, the focus of that event that was local campus issues and changes in the areas of pedagogy and because of the current state economic condition. Next came the initial planning for this event, which focuses on current issues impacting the entire CSU university system. From the start of the planning event the planning committee was expanded to include additional faculty, the associated student president and a college dean. We also need to acknowledge that this event would not have been possible without the support of the offices of the university president, the provost office and also the faculty senate office plus the dedicated efforts of many individuals in the greater campus community. It's amazing how many people it takes to put an event like this on. The full list of individuals who are on the campus planning committee are on the back of your program. I encourage you to look at it. I would like to read off those particular names and ask for them to sign if they happen to be in the auditorium at this time. Sandra Chung, are you here? Would you step outside? How about Michael Hogan? He's already standing. [Applause] Connor Landsdale, who is the associate student president. He is a moderator for a panel this afternoon. I know he'll be there. Carol Shuban [phonetic]. I saw you earlier. These people are all in hiding now. [laughter] Dean Michael Spagna [phonetic]. I saw you earlier. [Applause] Cheryl Specter. [Applause] Myself. [laughter] Melanie Williams. [Applause] And also the next time you happen to be outside especially when you're getting your lunch thank Heidi. [Applause] She is from the faculty office senate. There she is. The ultimate logistics person to help pull everything together. Now you're probably thinking he said this is the second of three events. Hmm. What do we have in the works? The intention is that Northridge plans to hold a third event sometime in the latter half of the 2011-2012 academic year. It's going to be probably a multi-day event and it's going to focus on national issues in public higher education. So we're ramping it up. We start at the campus level now we're at the state level then we're going to go national. Watch the website for this event for announcements regarding the third activity. The URL is in today's program. You'll find it in there. Now back to this current event. California Public Higher Education as we currently know it is actually celebrating 50 years of service to the state. It was on April 14th, 1960, not that many days ago in

terms of the calendar month, that Governor Pat Brown -- boy, doesn't that bring up memories -- signed the Donahoe Higher Education Act, which created what is referred to as the master plan for higher education in California. That legislation unified various independent state colleges into the structure that was then called the California State College System and also provided clarified missions for the CSU, the UC, and the California Community Colleges. One year later in 1961 the CSU board of trustees assumed overall responsibility for the CSU operation. Public higher education in California is now at a crossroad. We know the path that we've been on for the past 50 years. It's been exciting, it's great, but at this crossroad we're looking forward and the problem is to be honest the path is obscured, it's obscured by uncertainties some of this having to do with the budget. Because of the funding structure of the state the CSU's direct competition for funding is actually the state prison system. As their funding needs have increased over the years, the available amount of funds for us has diminished. During these past 50 years the CSU has weathered a number of financial crises. Again, for some of us that have been around here for a while we can remember of them but none have been so daunting as the one that we're currently facing. How will the CSU survive? How is the CSU evolving to meet the needs of the residents of this great state? What will the CSU look like in the future? I can't answer these questions, but hopefully these are particular topics that will be addressed in various capacities today that will have an opportunity for greater insight. We're very pleased to have as our morning speakers three people. I'm just going to quickly read their names now and then we'll get into the formal introductions of them in just a little bit. We have the president of California State University Northridge, Jolene Koester, sitting up here.

[Applause] We also have the California State University Chancellor, Charles Reed.

[Applause] And joining us, as I look at his empty seat, joining us in a short period of time will be California State Senator Alex Padilla, whose district happens to include CSU Northridge. Before I introduce the first of these speakers we have a couple of logistical issues that we do need to discuss. This is the practical matters now. If you should need to leave this room for any particular reason, and oh, by the way please do put your cell phones, as I think about my own, onto silent mode, please, or turn off. We're not going to be like a movie theatre and say that the bright light is going to distract anybody. We won't go that far. If you need to leave the room, please exit to my left, it's your right, out those doors. If for some reason you need to visit the restrooms and you don't know where they are yet, you actually leave, you circle around by the ticket area so it's just on the other side here and they're located over there. When the morning session is over, you'll have the opportunity to purchase boxed lunches at the tables where you checked in this morning. There are also fast food services in the university bookstore complex, which is just behind us also so you have certain opportunities there. For our two plenary speakers this morning there will be Q&A opportunities but to streamline the process what we're requesting is that when you came in you received little index cards. Please write your questions on those cards. If you run out and have some additional paper you want to write on, that also works fine. We're going to have people that will be collecting those particular questions and what will happen is then at

various opportune moments I'm going to be reading some of those particular questions out for you and giving speakers an opportunity to respond. What I'd also like to comment on is the schedule for this morning. There might be some slight what I'm going to call deviations in the time of these particular events. There's a high probability that I've probably run over my amount of time and I consider all these particular things to be estimate of we're talking that each one of our presenters this morning is probably going to be giving somewhere in the 15- to a 20-minute presentation. If Senator Padilla arrives a little bit earlier than the original scheduled time of 11:00, we will take him as soon as the chancellor has completed his particular address. One of the reasons we would like to do this is to whatever extent that we can have a more common with multiple speakers up here for the Q&A that where they can interact with each other for some of these particular questions. So that's going to be a little bit of the format this morning. So, please be patient with us in that particular regards. It is now my pleasure to invite the president of CSU Northridge, Dr. Jolene Koester, to provide some additional opening remarks.

[Applause]

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