Thank you, Rich (Templeton). It is an honor to be here at the NanoTx 06 conference in Dallas, Texas. I would like to extend a special welcome to all of our visitors who have traveled from all over the United States and other parts of the world to be here today, and the business leaders, scientists, and engineers who are making profound breakthroughs in nanotechnology research and commercialization through new, innovative alliances and partnerships. I also would like to extend a special thank you to the conference organizers and the City of Dallas for all of their hard work in putting on this exciting and important event.

I must confess that when I first heard the term nanotechnology, I thought it came from the Robin Williams character on “Mork and Mindy” who liked to use the alien expression, “nanu nanu.” Since then, I have received a true education, and I am a firm believer in what nanotech can do to revolutionize our economy. And having seen how a unique, collaborative technology model like Sematech has worked for the last 20 years, I have great faith that our newest joint venture can forever change Texas.

We are at a critical juncture in our history, the challenges we face daunting, yet with some of our most arduous challenges come some of our best opportunities. The ability to create and develop a fully-functioning prosthetic arm for soldiers who have lost their limb in combat, the opportunity to utilize gold nanoshells to detect and treat cancer, the manufacturing of new novel devices to detect chemical and biological hazards, the development of fuel cells and nanomaterials to improve energy efficiency, and even the creation of the better baseball bat to help some kid hit that home run he has dreamed about for years in his own backyard, they all are possible with nanotechnology. And that last one is possible without illegal steroids. Many of you here today have a deep passion for solving problems by harnessing the real promise of nanotechnology. It is about solving problems and improving people’s lives. Nanotechnology, with the novel properties we are discovering at the atomic scale, and utilization of interdisciplinary sciences that we are harnessing in commercial applications, is serving as a catalyst in forming new types of business and research alliances, many of which extend globally.

It is an exciting time to be alive. With the global marketplace steadily marching towards a technology-based future, it is more important than ever before that we all attract and grow top-notch researchers and technology employers that will form the backbone of tomorrow’s economy. That is why I proposed and signed into law the
Texas Emerging Technology Fund, a $200 million tool dedicated to improving research at our universities, helping start-up technology firms get off the ground sooner, and speeding the process of moving new inventions out of the lab and into the hands of consumers.

Today I am pleased to announce, Texas has been awarded the third Nanoelectronics Research Center, SWAN, by the National Science Foundation and the Semiconductor Research Corporation. Thanks to the efforts of principal investigator, Dr. Sanjay Banerjee from UT-Austin, this third center will bring researchers throughout Texas and neighboring regions to develop the next-generation technology and techniques for semiconductor manufacturing. I am also proud to announce we have created a $30M nanoelectronics research top talent fund to make Texas the world’s leader in nanoelectronics research, development, and commercialization. This top talent nanoelectronics effort will be funded by $10 million from the emerging technology fund, $10 million from the UT System, and $10 million from industry. With this investment we will bring 7 to 8 globally recognized researchers and their teams to Texas to develop breakthrough nanoelectronics research which will impact our semiconductor, energy, life sciences, aerospace, and defense industries.

I want to thank the UT System, especially Dr. Daniels who is with us here today, the Emerging Tech Board, and so many others for their vision and commitment. I also want to issue a special thank you to Texas Instruments for their extraordinary leadership and commitment in contributing $5 million to this effort. Rich, I thank you for not only being an exemplary corporate citizen of Texas, but throughout the world. You have regional expertise and a global commitment to solving difficult challenges. I also would like to extend a very special thank you to Jim Von Ehr of Zyvex for contributing $1 million towards this top talent package. His leadership and passion for bringing the promise of nanotechnology to the market is inspiring. I especially want to thank the leadership and commitment of the Texas Alliance for Nano, TxAN, comprised of researchers from universities all across Texas, Sematech, business leaders from the energy, semiconductor, nanotechnology, life science, and aerospace sectors, and key federal agencies committed to the development and successful growth of these initiatives.

And what are the goals of these initiatives? To accelerate research and commercialization of nanoelectronics, nanomaterials, and nanomedicine, all of which promise to play a major role in our economic future and have a profound effect upon people’s quality of life. This new leverage model, comprised of university, industry, and government leaders focused on accelerated research and commercialization is a model not only for Texas, but the whole world. When I proposed the Emerging Technology Fund, it was exactly these types of investment opportunities that I had in mind. Leaders throughout the state had already done much of the groundwork to create the environment right for this type of opportunities. And like an expansion team in the NFL, all they needed now was the right gameplan and to draft some star players as they build a championship franchise. That’s where the Emerging Technology Fund came in.

With the state’s $10 million investment, we are bringing some of the best players to Texas by securing what will be one of the premier nanotechnology research initiatives in the world. I am proud that the Emerging Technology Fund could help make these partnerships possible, and these partnerships require a special partnership and outreach to our young people. We know that in order to commercialize this breakthrough research, our industries need a highly trained, innovative workforce. The National Science Foundation estimates that there will be 2 million new jobs created by 2015 in nanotechnology. We have launched a $4 million nanoelectronics workforce initiative to meet this need led by Austin Community College where anyone from interns, to two-year students, to post-doc graduates from all over Texas have access to Sematech’s leading-edge industrial R&D facility to participate in one of the most rigorous technical training programs in the
world. I would like to recognize three students from this program who are here with us today, Debo Ade-Fosudo, an undergrad engineering student from the University of Houston, Rosa Cardenas, a physics Ph.D. student from the University of Texas at Austin, and Philip Wibawa, an associate student from Austin Community College. The challenges before you are significant, and the opportunities profound. You have a tremendous opportunity to make Texas proud, and to bring your groundbreaking work to the attention of global leaders.

We also have over 200 teachers in science and math attending this conference from across the state. I thank the Texas Nanotechnology Initiative for their sponsorship. To support their efforts in the classroom, I was proud to sign school finance reform legislation that required an additional year of math and science so our students are better prepared for college and the knowledge economy of the 21st Century. You have an amazing opportunity to take back to your campuses this new science, and the discoveries emanating from it, to excite and engage the next generation of scientists and engineers. Perhaps one of the teachers in this room today, through your efforts and the support of these new alliances and partnerships, will enable a student to be one of our next Nobel Laureates. That is the dream we have for the great many students who learn the disciplines of math, science, computer science and engineering. May your efforts succeed beyond your highest expectations, and may God continue to bless the great state of Texas.

I would now like for Rich Templeton of TI, Jim Von Ehr of Zyvex, President Daniels of the University of Texas at Dallas, Mr. James Spaniolo of the University of Arlington, Dr. Juan Sanchez and Larry Sumney of the Semiconductor Research Corporation to join me on stage. On behalf of the state of Texas, I would like to thank them and the members of the Texas Alliance for Nano for their commitment to bring a national center to Texas and the top talent to Texas to accelerate research into commercialized solutions for Texas and America. This is achieved through a statewide network of the most advanced university, industry R&D labs and Sematech's fab, and a strong commitment from business, government, and our educational leaders to create the economic backbone of the future. Thank you and welcome to NanoTX06!