Opening Remarks and Introduction
GPRI Conference
Dr. Dennis Depew, Interim Director, Global Policy Research Institute
April 9, 2013

Thank you for joining us today for Purdue University's Global Policy Research Institute's Third Annual Policy Research for a Changing World "Grand Challenge" Conference. I am Dennis Depew, Interim Director of the Global Policy Research Institute.

It is my pleasure to introduce the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost of our great University.

Timothy D. Sands has served as executive vice president for academic affairs and provost of Purdue University since April 2010. Dr. Sands was acting president from June 2012 – January 2013, prior to Mitch Daniels becoming the 12th President of Purdue. In his role as acting president, Dr. Sands was responsible for leading Purdue's West Lafayette and regional campuses.

As executive vice president and provost, Dr. Sands is responsible for all of Purdue's colleges and schools and related academic activities in coordination with the Office of the President. The provost also oversees libraries, cultural centers, and enrollment management including admissions, registrar and financial aid and various student success programs in addition to the appointment and retention of faculty and academic staff.

Dr. Sands earned a bachelor's degree with highest honors in engineering physics and a master's degree and doctorate in materials science from the University of California, Berkeley. He joined the Purdue faculty in 2002 as the Basil S. Turner Professor of Engineering in the schools of materials engineering and electrical and computer engineering. Prior to becoming Provost, he served as the Mary Jo and Robert L. Kirk Director of the Birck Nanotechnology Center in Purdue's Discovery Park.

Dr. Sands has published more than 250 refereed papers and conference proceedings and has been granted 16 patents in electronic and optoelectronic materials and devices. His present research efforts are directed toward the development of novel nanocomposite materials for environmentally friendly and cost-effective solid-state lighting, direct conversion of heat to electrical power and thermoelectric refrigeration. He is a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and the Materials Research Society.

Tim Sands is joined at Purdue by his wife, the Katherine Birck Professor of Nursing, Laura Sands, who is one of our featured speakers today. All four of their children are Boilermakers.

Ladies and gentlemen, please help me welcome Dr. Tim Sands.