

President France A. Córdoba
GPRI Grand Challenge Conference Welcome
RAWLS 3082
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8:30 a.m.

Thank you very much Arden. Good morning everyone and thank you so much for being here. Purdue is very fortunate to have someone of Arden's prestige leading the Global Policy Research Institute. Over the last two years he has built a foundation for the Institute that will sustain GPRI into the future. He is doing a fantastic job for Purdue and by extension the whole country and the world, so thank you Arden so much for being here and leading our efforts. This is something new; we just started it less than two years ago. We were extremely lucky to recruit Arden from the Washington, D.C. area where he served so distinguishably as Director of the National Science Foundation and Director of NIST and he brings all that and much more to world affairs.

In addition to leading this Institute, he's also our chief global affairs officer. So he spends a lot of his time just pulling together Purdue, which is so disseminated and differentiated with all of the colleges busy on global affairs. Bringing them all periodically back together to discuss what are our focuses, what are our strengths and how do we move together.

I have been on the road with him a lot lately especially this past year in particular. We've been to Hong Kong, we've been to Colombia and we've been most recently to Ethiopia and Tanzania and everywhere he goes he makes a tremendous impression on people. We were lucky enough to visit with the current and past presidents of Colombia for quite awhile over lunch. They are just so enthusiastic about collaborating with Purdue to researchers in the field. As you know, Arden is interested in every single thing and that really communicates itself when he's on the road asking a lot of questions.

One of Arden's early tasks was to assemble GPRI's External Advisory Council that would guide and inspire this Institute. Arden succeeded in recruiting an all-star team of scholars and public servants to do this role. We are privileged to have many of the team members with us this morning. Thank you very much for being here. We look forward to hearing your perspective on what can make the Institute even stronger. This is a new endeavor having a real science foundation and a strong data emphasis on formulating great policy for leaders is a very important distinguishing strength of this Institute so we would continue to do better through your efforts, your advice.

From scholars to admirals to diplomats, every one of you is as impressive as the next. I think I could speak for hours but I won't, I actually have some other things I will be doing today including one early this morning that is very connected with the work of the Institute and that's having the grand opening of our Life and Health Sciences Park on campus. The research that is being done there through our brand new College of Health and Human Sciences and also our new Drug Discovery Building is going to be very important to lay the

foundations for the policy work that this Institute will do. Even the governor got in the act by helping us with the funding.

But I would like to take just a moment to recognize one very special member of the EAC; Dr. C.N.R. Rao. This evening Dr. Rao will be giving a lecture in a new lecture series named for him. Dr. Rao is an incredibly distinguished scholar, a top science advisor to the current Indian Prime Minister, and a Purdue Alumnus and we're very pleased that he will be back with us.

Today's presentations, much like last year's inaugural conference, will highlight Purdue research across many disciplines. You will notice an even greater emphasis this year on projects that target grand challenges. All of the presenters have successfully competed for GPRI funding which is only awarded to the top proposals. They qualified for this honor because of the potential benefits of their research to decision makers making that direct link between their research and public policy.

The range of topics on the agenda today is also a source of pride. Although most interdisciplinary problems require interdisciplinary solutions, few universities have both the interest and the capacity to combine a policy expertise with advanced research in agriculture, energy, security, economics, health care and the environment. That's a wide range of things and it's very appropriate for Purdue and I can truly say as President, that Purdue is distinguished in all of these areas.

So you'll see what our researchers have done today. Arden is now going to tell us a little more about the presentations he has lined up for this conference. Arden....

Let me add my thanks once again for the service that you provide to Purdue. This is a new step for Purdue, having a policy institute. I can share with you that when we first announced that we'd like to do this, we had something like 16-19 faculty members working on it. The Trustees scratched their heads and they asked questions that Trustees have to ask, is this Purdue. Well I think that you all will agree that it not only is Purdue but it is certainly a new way that Purdue can make a giant difference.

Thank you.