Hello and welcome to Ferris State University. I want to thank you for being here today. Every building on our campus marks a special point in time. Each of you will be able to look back at today and say "I was there when..." Your presence helps make this a memorable occasion for our university, programs, and people.

Today we are gathered to dedicate a truly unique and wonderful building, a living learning building, that in its construction and design is a teaching laboratory for the construction management and heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration fields. I believe this is the finest structure of its kind in the country.

In looking at this magnificent structure I want to thank legislators on the local, state, and federal levels who helped develop the funding for this building. I also want to direct your attention to the back page of our program which lists the many people and companies who have contributed to this remarkable facility. You will also find a listing of these names on the donor wall.

As we dedicate this building we have the opportunity to say thank you to a wonderful couple, whose involvement and support for our University has and will make a difference for generations of faculty and students. Your kindness and generosity helped make this building a reality and will serve as a shining example to others of how people who care can make a lasting difference for others.

Introduce special guests –

I would also like to thank someone who is not present today, my predecessor President Bill Sederburg. Much of Bill’s vision went into the design of this building. Bill gave me the special Ferris pin that I wear today, which has a bulldog with a hardhat. He wore it to each groundbreaking ceremony and I intend to do the same.

Allow me to introduce Chuck Matrosic, Dean of the College of Technology, a person’s whose academic discipline is construction management. I suspect that much of this building is part of Chuck’s vision for the future of his industry. Dean Charles Matrosic.

Bruce Parsons is a graduate of Ferris State University and has been a member of our Board of Trustees for 14 Years. As Chair of our Board I would invite him to add his comments for this occasion.

Mr. Bruce Parsons.
Today is truly a family affair. Part of the pleasure of getting to know Al and Janice Granger has been the opportunity to meet their children and grandchildren. Their son Glenn is someone I have very much enjoyed getting to know, a person I’m honored to call a friend. As president of Granger Construction, Glenn was very much involved with the construction of this building. Glenn would you please stand so we can recognize you.
Mr. Glen Granger

The Granger’s son Gary, is someone I work with regularly as a member of our Board of Trustees. Gary’s position is truly unique, in addition to being a son and a board member, his two sons also attend Ferris State University. It is a pleasure to present Gary Granger to you.

Granger Construction has been very much a part of Ferris State University for over ten years, beginning with family student housing and continuing through many of the new projects on campus including this one. I believe that in many ways the Grangers know more about this campus than we do. Beyond that for them Ferris is a family affair with both children and grandchildren who have benefited from our education.

In thinking of today and of the Grangers, I am reminded of one of my favorite poems, words that have meaning for builders and educators alike...

The Bridge Builder

An old man, going a lone highway,
Came at the evening, cold and gray,
To chasm, vast and deep and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim;
The sullen stream had no fears for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day;
You never again must pass this way;
You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide—
Why build you the bridge at the eventide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head:
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been naught to me
To that fair-haired youth may a pit-fall be,
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him."

Will Allen Dromgoole

As a university and a community we wanted to make a video which would express and capture our feelings of appreciation and thanks on this occasion. We invite you to watch...

I’m hopeful this video will serve as a warm and pleasant reminder of our love affection and gratitude for both of you.

Ladies and gentlemen, Al and Janice Granger

We now invite you to tour this magnificent facility. As a quick orientation – HVACR labs are to the left on the first floor, computer labs are on the second floor, to the right are the construction management labs with faculty offices on the second floor.

Thank you Al and Janice and thanks to each of you for being with us today. I would invite Mike Feutz, Chair for the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Department and David Hanna, Chair for Construction Management to hold the ceremonial ribbon and the members of the Granger family join us in the ribbon cutting ceremony.