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A draft of Opening Remarks by Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., President of Purdue
University at

The Purdue International Friendship Program 2016 Launch Meeting

July 16, 2016

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening to you all.

As you already know, I'm an enthusiastic proponent and advocate for furthering the richness of cultural diversity at Purdue. I am greatly excited and delighted to be part of the kickoff event for the 2016 International Friendship Program this evening, with the presence of passionate partners, supporters, and volunteers like you.

Purdue University and I greatly appreciate your constant support and participation in this valuable program for international students and scholars at Purdue.

Purdue University ranks second in international student enrollment among all public United States colleges and universities, and first overall for international students majoring in STEM disciplines. Purdue's first international student graduated in 1890. We are proud of our long history of rich cultural diversity. This year, 9,230 students and more than 895 faculty and staff, representing 125 countries, are a part of the Purdue Boilermaker family.

International students bring a unique perspective to our campus community. Our goal is to encourage every student to think globally, appreciate diversity and learn

how education can foster global understanding. The strengths of education at Purdue, combined with a commitment to internationalize the campus, makes the University a premier institution of higher education in America and in the world.

Your unwavering support for the International Friendship Program is a great assistance for the international students to enhance their American educational experience and contribute the globalization of Purdue.

The Friendship Program is one of the Purdue International Integration Initiatives, which is coordinated by the Office of International Students and Scholars, known as ISS. ISS does an excellent job in helping the internationalization of Purdue University. They provide appropriate services and support to international clientele and various University departments and offices. ISS seeks to enhance the academic, cultural, and social pursuits of students and scholars from abroad, through knowledge and expertise in recruitment, admissions, immigration, advising, and cross-cultural programming.

I'm honored to present to you Ms. Christine Collins, Director of International Student Services and International Students and Scholars. Chris heads major International Student programs, and will be your host for this evening's event.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming Christine Collins.

I wish you all a pleasant evening.

##The end of the speech ##