Our powerful work at The University of Akron depends on the talents of our people. My comments will brief and relate to talent recognition and talent development.

**Graduation**
- There are five ceremonies May 8 – 10 and the School of Law ceremony on May 17.
- The Spring Class of 2015 consists of 3,000 candidates from 32 states and 28 countries.
- This group includes 59 candidates for doctoral degrees; 114 for Juris Doctor degrees; 670 for master’s degrees; 1,833 for bachelor’s degrees; and 402 for associate degrees.
- I know we all look forward to congratulating the graduates and their families this weekend.

**Institute for Teaching and Learning**
- ITL focused on faculty development, department chair development, and the development and evolution of our learning outcomes assessment.
- A year-long rethinking gender series of faculty presentations was developed with Women’s Studies.

**Faculty/Staff Awards**
- Each year you nominate your colleagues for various awards.
- Last week the president, deans, department chairs and I surprised the recipients either in their classroom or at a meeting to present them with their award.
- All of the award recipients were featured in The Digest
- This was the inaugural year for the Excellence in Community Engagement Award which was created to align with the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification that the University received this year.