JONES (Title Slide – Provost’s Report)

Good afternoon. I’m excited that our meeting today is being held at Penn State Beaver—a beautiful campus about which you’ll hear even more from Chancellor Donna Kuga after my remarks.

I’d also like to officially welcome Tina Richardson to the Penn State family. Formerly the associate dean of academic affairs at Drexel University’s School of Education, Tina is the new Chancellor at Penn State Lehigh Valley. We are thrilled to have an educator of her caliber among our leadership.

In today’s presentation I will discuss all of our Commonwealth Campuses, our World Campus, and other key elements of how Penn State operates that enable success for those who wish to pursue an affordable and easily accessible education. It’s a vital topic that merits our collective in-depth awareness and understanding.

JONES (Slide 2 – This is Penn State, Now)

The Pennsylvania State University faces many challenges every day, as all universities do, but in 2015 it clearly is a growing and thriving institution of higher learning and research. When we say the words, “This Is Penn State,” it means many things. Some facts you may know already:

- There are 24 campuses across the Commonwealth, putting Penn State within practical commuting distance of most Pennsylvania residents.
- We have more than 23,000 acres of land and 1,784 buildings statewide, including 7,343 acres and 947 buildings at University Park.
- Our rapidly growing online World Campus enables learners to pursue an education—anytime, anywhere—and U.S. News & World Report ranked its undergraduate programs No. 1 out of 185 institutions in its 2015 list of online educational programs, based on the World Campus’ academic reputation, broad accessibility, and affordability. The World Campus also ranked No. 1 for online undergraduate programs for military veterans.
• Penn State already has approximately 100,000 students, yet baccalaureate applications for summer and fall 2015 were up more than 4 percent over last year, and graduate and medical applications were up 6 and 8 percent, respectively.

• As of July 1, we have more than 645,000 living alumni, and more than 110,000 life members of the Penn State Alumni Association.

• Our teaching hospital, the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, provides care to more than 1 million patients a year, and our research funding exceeds $800 million, ranking us among the top U.S. universities.

JONES (Slide 3 – Still Room to Improve and Grow)

These quick facts offer a solid, albeit limited, snapshot of what success looks like for our university today. We still have much room for improvement and growth, however—so while we can be excited about the great things we’re accomplishing, we cannot rest. There is still a lot of work to be done. Penn State’s Strategic Plan for 2015-16 through 2019-20, which will be completed later this year, represents Penn State’s blueprint for the future, articulating not only our institution’s mission, vision and values, but also its foundational principles, imperatives, and strategic priorities that will enable Penn State to continue to thrive. It also reveals how Penn State will continue to have positive impacts not only in this Commonwealth, but also throughout the United States and worldwide.

JONES (Slide 4 – Our Multi-Campus Structure)

Today I want to focus more on Penn State’s unique multi-campus structure, and how it has evolved over time to serve the university’s founding land-grant mission and to ensure educational access and affordability for future students. This is a vital consideration in our forthcoming strategic plan.

Penn State’s structural uniqueness is such that we are not a system as generally considered within the United States’ higher education environment. University systems usually represent a collection of institutions, each with substantial autonomy and curricular independence whose leaders report to a president or central coordinating office dealing largely with external and legislative affairs. Big Ten institutions that are considered systems include the
University of Wisconsin and the University of Maryland. Penn State, however, truly functions as one university, geographically distributed, not only in concept, but also in practice.

As you know, we have one University President; one Board of Trustees; one University Faculty Senate; one set of policies and procedures for faculty, staff, and students. Penn State’s budget planning and implementation processes are entirely centralized under the direction of the Executive Vice President and Provost—that’s me—and the Senior Vice President for Finance and Business/Treasurer, and supported by the University Budget Office. On the student side, much of our course content is consistent across campuses, including the World Campus, and you are a Penn State graduate no matter how, when, or where you achieved your degree. We are a single university; we are not a university system. Penn State as a multi-campus entity informs everything we say and do.

JONES (Slide 5 – Our Unique Structure's Benefits)

One intrinsic benefit of our unique structure—one university, geographically distributed—is that it provides for an accessible Penn State education with choices to fit most personal situations, preferences, and challenges. While the University Park campus is the largest one and serves as our administrative hub, it is not defined as the “main” campus. The Commonwealth Campuses, which vary in size and program portfolio, advance the University’s mission and serve their broader communities. Penn State’s structure has served well to fulfill its role as the Commonwealth’s land-grant institution, and we continue to take pride in our unified, multi-campus approach.

JONES (Slide 6 – Our Commonwealth Campuses)

Commonwealth Campuses such as Penn State Beaver are essential portals to the broader University. Of our total first-year student population, about six of every 10 Penn State students pursuing associate or baccalaureate degrees start their coursework at a Commonwealth Campus. More than 5,000 students transition annually among Penn State campuses, and nearly 2,500 additional students annually transfer to Commonwealth Campuses from other Pennsylvania-based colleges and universities.

Typically, about 85 percent of all first-year Pennsylvania applicants receive an offer to a baccalaureate degree program at one of Penn State’s 20 undergraduate campuses, including University Park Incoming students represent a wider range of educational and socioeconomic
backgrounds at the Commonwealth Campuses than at University Park, but all of our campuses attract motivated students, and they fulfill the University’s mission of providing access statewide for learners whose family incomes may be too low to make other higher education options viable. The Commonwealth Campuses have long served Pennsylvanians well, and that continues today; 85 percent of all Commonwealth Campus students are from Pennsylvania and come to us from more than 800 high schools statewide.

Within this “one university, geographically distributed” philosophy, our so-called “2+2” mission is an enduring success story. Through the 2+2 enrollment model, Commonwealth Campuses meet many students’ needs by offering a key starting point: access to higher education with lower tuition costs, greater contact with faculty, and in many situations, the ability to avoid room-and-board costs. An individual may spend two years studying at a Commonwealth Campus closer to home before completing his or her degree at University Park. Still others begin their studies at a Commonwealth Campus and remain there or transition to another Commonwealth Campus to earn their degrees.

**JONES (Slide 7 – “The Song Remains the Same”)**

Regardless of where they begin or end within the University, or the cost of tuition, students receive the quality of education that is expected as part of the Penn State experience. For the 2015-16 academic year, we expect tuition costs at Commonwealth Campuses to be flat or to increase only nominally. The campuses targeted for the lowest increases would be the ones with the higher percentage of need-based students, as well as the most socio-economic and demographic challenges in the surrounding communities.

Ultimately, our Commonwealth Campuses are strong, serving more than 31,000 students who are vital to our integrated University structure.

**JONES (Slide 8 – Meet Niccia Griffin-McKinney)**

Consider the story of Niccia Griffin-McKinney, a “2+2” student who earned her bachelor’s degree in May from University Park and blogged regularly about her college experience. In August 2011, she started her college career at Penn State Mont Alto, noting that she accepted the offer of admission over other schools’ because of its location and because it’s what her mother could afford. She added, “I joined Lion Ambassadors at Mont Alto and instantly became great friends with some pretty phenomenal people, and I realized that I made the right choice.” She later transitioned
to University Park, where she joined the College of Communications Student Council and continued her involvement with THON that had begun at Mont Alto. In the end, she wrote, “I attended the best university in the world, and I had the time of my life.”

JONES (Slide 9 – Meet Dominique Robinson)

And then there’s the story of Philadelphia native Dominique Robinson. When he first arrived at Penn State Berks, he thought he would complete two years there, and then complete a degree in business management at University Park. But as a student at Berks, he discovered his passion for applied psychology and decided to complete that degree right where he was. “Penn State Berks helped me find myself and discover the person I want to be,” Robinson said. “I met so many good people who have changed my life—students, faculty, and staff members. I consider this home.” He graduated in May 2015 and is moving on to pursue a graduate degree in social work at Virginia Commonwealth University.

JONES (Slide 10 – Meet Yuanheng “Arthur” Wang)

Now meet Yuanheng “Arthur” Wang, who came to the United States in 2006. The Kumming, China, native is a junior at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, where he is thriving. He has made the Dean’s List every semester, joined the Lambda Sigma National Honor Society, served as the regional vice president of the Student Pennsylvania State Education Association, and was recently accepted into the University’s Schreyer Honors College.

But that’s not all. This China native is majoring in English. Why? He says, “I like English, and I like communication. They just make me excited. I want to help those who are learning English, but in order to do that, I have to master the language myself.”

Arthur says he’s thrilled he chose to pursue a higher education at one of Penn State’s acclaimed Commonwealth Campuses, and it’s opened many doors for him. He said, “I’m not here to accept or receive an education. I’m here to claim an education. I want to claim all of the resources here available to me.”

JONES (Slide 11 – Commonwealth Campuses Support Meaningful Lives)

During your time here at Penn State Beaver, you’ve already heard and will hear even more success stories from students whose lives are better thanks to the affordable access to a top-shelf education that they received here. Their stories and some I’ve shared with you today—along with that of Jill Bender, shown here, who started as an elementary education student at Penn State
Beaver and ended up working here full time in the Student Development Center—are all testimony to Penn State’s ability to give individuals the education they need, where they need it, so they can lead meaningful lives, personally and professionally.

**JONES (Slide 12 – World Campus Student Headcount)**

Beyond our brick-and-mortar campuses, enrollments in our online World Campus are growing, and the World Campus will continue to ensure that even more students can take advantage of affordable access to higher education. Penn State and its faculty and staff understand that adult students deal with many outside responsibilities and challenging life circumstances, and through the World Campus they help distance learners to achieve their personal and professional goals.

**JONES (Slide 13 – World Campus Value Proposition)**

The World Campus value proposition is geared toward what learners want: a “real” Penn State degree, convenience and flexibility, extraordinary student support, an exceptional learning experience, and a connection to the Penn State family—a true worldwide network.

**JONES (Slide 14 – Penn State’s World Campus Success Story)**

Our World Campus students, such as U.S. Air Force Captain Neil Barnas, shown here, come from all 50 U.S. states, three U.S. territories, and 80 countries, yet they share the goal of making their lives better through education. Approximately 700 Penn State faculty, both fixed-term and tenured, teach in more than 125 academic programs delivered through the World Campus.

**JONES (Slide 15 – World Campus Gross Tuition Revenue)**

Beyond making a Penn State education accessible more broadly, the World Campus’ success also delivers vital financial benefits across the University and its units. Gross tuition revenue from the World Campus totaled approximately $120 million in the 2014-15 academic year, and we expect these revenues to grow significantly over time.

**JONES (Slide 16 – Access and Affordability)**

Education, research, and service have been the foundations of Penn State for the past 160 years. It is with renewed focus that we look ahead to educating our nearly 100,000 students, continuing to lead the nation as a world-class academic and research institution, and to expanding our commitment to service. We will continue to leverage our unique structure—including Penn State’s Commonwealth Campuses and World Campus—to meet our obligations regarding educational access and affordability and ongoing fulfillment of Penn State’s land-grant mission.
Thank you for your attention this afternoon. Now I have some time to answer a few questions.