

**REMARKS FOR ADMINISTRATOR BOLDEN**  
**CLOSING OF INTERNATIONAL SPACE UNIVERSITY**  
**SPACE STUDIES PROGRAM 2012**

August 3, 2012

Thanks, Janet (Petro), and thank-you to the International Space University (ISU) for inviting me to participate in these closing activities. It's great to share your accomplishments as you near the end of the ISU Space Studies Program and to share the program's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We've been so excited to have you here in Florida taking advantage of the deep resources of the Kennedy Space Center and the Florida Institute of Technology.

It's also fitting that we join Bob Cabana and the entire KSC team in celebrating the Kennedy Space Center's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the remarkable contributions of the Space Coast to our rich and diverse history in space.

The road to space always has – and always will – lead through the great state of Florida.

I've been fortunate to meet a lot of our colleagues in aerospace around the world, and I can say that it makes me very optimistic about the future when I see the energy and enthusiasm that people everywhere are pouring into space programs and scientific inquiry and technology development.

Our field yields many benefits for the world, and as we move forward, the partnerships we share among nations are going to be critical to our success as a global spacefaring people. Here in the U.S., we intend to continue leading that crucial effort for the future.

Growing our individual economies and solving global problems relies on continued smart investments in science and technology. That's why President Obama's vision for NASA focuses on technology development and challenging missions to reach new destinations.

It's a timely reminder of what we can accomplish, that as we wrap up this ISU Space Studies Program we're on the cusp of another thrilling milestone in exploration as NASA's *Curiosity* rover lands on Mars late Sunday night (in Pacific Time, that is, home to *Curiosity's* mission control).

*Curiosity* can stand in for a lot of what ISU means to our field, because it represents the intersection of exploration and science and a great example of how each can support the other.

It's a team effort that broke boundaries in many areas and will extend our reach in the coming years.

Not only will *Curiosity* return amazing science as the largest rover ever landed on the Red Planet – it will also serve as a precursor to the human missions to Mars we're working on for the 2030's. Its landing will demonstrate a new technology, bringing precision landing to a whole new level as the car-sized rover is lowered carefully by a sky crane. A lot of you know all about this, and I hope you'll join us online or however you can for this space history in the making.

Earlier today it was also my pleasure to announce the latest awards in NASA's commercial program, for the Commercial Crew Integrated Capability (CCiCAP) initiative.

We have selected three companies to develop crew transportation capabilities as fully integrated systems – and keep us on track to end the outsourcing of this work to other countries.

Our industry partnerships for transportation to low Earth orbit are a critical component of our future human spaceflight program that will create jobs and generate new technologies. They make it possible for NASA to focus its sights on the space technology development that will enable us to do what no one can right now - like sending humans to an asteroid or to Mars.

I know that kind of out-of-the-box thinking is the sort of thing you were looking at in your Team Projects. I look forward to hearing more about the conclusions you drew about the big questions you brainstormed and researched, and for which you developed concrete plans. You certainly couldn't have built on firmer bedrock of experience than the space professionals here at KSC and in Florida.

ISU is a great tool for expanding your professional experience because it covers the whole gamut of technical, financial, organizational, political, social, and scientific aspects of our work. As you know, it's not all about the glory of launches or landings. There's a lot of hard work behind the scenes to make it all happen, or to manage missions as they race through space; hard work that we're all committed to doing, because we believe that space exploration is important – so important, in fact, that it's vital to this planet's future.

We face huge challenges in space, but the opportunities are huge as well, and I'm very optimistic about that future. We have the International Space Station, the largest, most complex international scientific and engineering program in history as a test bed for future technologies and systems.

We're making great progress on the Space Launch System that will carry astronauts to those farther destinations, and the *Orion* crew vehicle in which they'll travel. I hope many of you may have had a chance to get a glimpse of the *Orion* that will first travel to space in an uncrewed test flight in 2014 when it arrived here at Kennedy in June.

Of course, *Curiosity* is just the tip of the iceberg, so to speak, in science, with the *NuSTAR* mission this week firing up to look at the universe in terms of high-powered X-Rays and seek black holes. Your careers will be going strong as we launch the James Webb Space Telescope in 2018 and gain fresh insights on cosmic phenomena. And of course spacecraft are currently speeding toward Jupiter and Pluto and continuing to send back terabytes of data from the Moon, Mercury, Mars, and Saturn.

It's NASA's pleasure to be a part of the growing ISU family and help play a role in equipping all of you, the future leaders of these and many other endeavors in space. I congratulate all the participants and faculty on completion of this exhilarating and challenging learning experience and I look forward to seeing many of you at NASA and across the aerospace field worldwide in the years to come.

Thank you.