

**Rice University Collaborative Research Center  
Topping Out Ceremony  
March 28, 2008**

**Remarks  
Jeff Moseley  
President and CEO  
Greater Houston Partnership**

**“Biomedical research: An engine for industry creation”**

Thanks, Dr. Levy, and thank you for having me here today. As I look around the audience, I’m excited to see so many truly distinguished guests from our public, private and educational sectors.

To me, the star-power of this audience indicates how important the Collaborative Research Center will be to all of Houston. This center will do much more than simply provide a collaborative space for scientists from the Texas Medical Center and Rice University.

This center will play an important role in expanding Houston’s already world-class medical infrastructure. Targeted infrastructure investments like the Collaborative Research Center are one of the critical elements we know we must build, maintain, and sustain for our region to remain a magnet for commerce.

In 2005, the Partnership adopted a 10-year Strategic Plan for economic development, and medicine and biotechnology play a huge role in that plan. Our primary goals, while ambitious, are simple:

- To help grow jobs by 600,000;
- To increase capital investment by \$60 billion; and
- To expand foreign trade by \$120 billion by the end of 2015.

Two years into the plan, I’m happy to say that Houston had a banner year. The Partnership helped our region add more than 100,000 new jobs in 2007, and when the final numbers are in, we’ll see that new capital investment exceeded \$6 billion last year. We plan to continue working

toward our goals by focusing on key industry clusters, one of which is medicine and biotechnology.

Biomedical research is a great source of opportunity for Houston. The Houston region already attracts venture capitalists who want to invest in our growing life science industry. Today, that industry represents more than \$1.5 billion in annual academic research investments and more than 140 life science companies.

More than 5,000 employees work in more than 100 private biotechnology and life science research facilities in the Houston area. This is on top of 70,000 employees working in the Texas Medical Center and 5,000 employees at Rice.

Yes, the Collaborative Research Center will be a key player in helping Houston meet its needs for 21<sup>st</sup>-century infrastructure and high-quality jobs. Without a doubt, the research conducted here will improve the lives of people in our community, and communities around the world.

But from a business development perspective, we see this center as an incubator that will spin off new patents, new products to be sold, and new avenues for further research. Ultimately, it will lay the groundwork for entrepreneurial businesses that will create even more jobs, and jobs are the life-blood of any city.

The Collaborative Research Center is a 21<sup>st</sup>-century building for a 21<sup>st</sup>-century economy, not just for its contributions to our medical infrastructure and potential for job creation, but for its green aspects as well.

As Houston's leading institutions blend sustainability into the day-to-day fabric of our city, it solidifies our role as a world-leader, not just in medicine, energy and biotechnology, but in sustainable building practices that allow us to make more efficient use of our resources.

In 2006, the Partnership launched a program called *Opportunity Houston<sup>SM</sup>*. It's a \$40 million fund-raising initiative designed to generate leads, create jobs, and help spread the word – nationally and internationally – about everything this region has to offer. Led by Astros'

owner Drayton McLane, it has reached \$31.9 million in committed funds and has 155 investors.

I can't overstate the importance of this effort – both to the region and to our business community. The economic development marketplace is tough. We're going head-to-head with other countries, regions, states, and metropolitan areas that are offering hundreds of millions of dollars in tax breaks as an incentive to attract investment.

They're willing to slash property and corporate taxes, pay thousands for every job created, and in some cases, give companies a blank check – literally – to locate in their area.

Infrastructure investments like the Collaborative Research Center add to the winning equation that helps Houston attract relocating and expanding companies.

There are multiple reasons why leading publications such as *Forbes* and *Fortune* recognize Houston year after year for its overall economic strength, for its fastest growing companies, for its depth of career opportunities, and for our citizens' access to cutting-edge health care.

Cooperation and collaboration.

In Houston, we know that to accomplish great things, we have to pull in the best and brightest to get a job done and done well. In Houston, businesses, educational institutions, government and citizens come together to create our world-class institutions like the Texas Medical Center, Rice University, and many others too numerous to name. Soon, the Collaborative Research Center will be a fully contributing member of Houston's community.

This may look like a building still under construction to the passersby on Main Street, but from where I stand, this center looks like our future, and our future is promising.