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Wegenke Surprise Recognition for Sangren Hall
John M. Dunn
Feb. 8, 2013

Good afternoon.

- I am happy to be back in Sangren Hall. I find myself breaking into a smile whenever I walk in the front door. And then I realize that everyone around me is smiling as well.
- That's a tribute to the careful thought and absolute commitment to the student experience that was at the core of planning this building. We're here today to honor the Dr. Gary Wegenke under whose watch the planning for this building took place. As a matter of fact, the groundbreaking for this building was one of the very last major events that happened during Gary's seven years as dean of the College of Education and Human Development.
- We are here in the space that Gary conceived as a student gathering space. I think every student sitting here, relaxing between classes and meeting with friends is very much Gary's legacy. This may be a "bricks and mortar" facility, but it is clearly about more than that. Careful planning and a focus on being learner centered. This is a place that is all about bringing students together. It is about the generations of students who will gather here for some of the lifetime lessons they will take with them into their future as educators. *(If we were to assign a formal name to this part of Sangren Hall, it could be Wegenke Plaza--or Wegenke Commons or even Wegenke Way as a tribute to the person whose decades-long experience with young people helped make this a reality.)*
- I'm fond of Winston Churchill's famous sayings about our physical spaces. He said, "We shape our buildings: thereafter they shape us." Thank you Dr. Gary Wegenke for making that the core sentiment of the planning for this building.)

