

Remarks at the French Embassy

I am most humbled by this magnificent award and wish to express my gratitude to Ambassador Delattre for bestowing it upon me on behalf of President Nicolas Sarkozy and to Ambassador Vimont for forwarding my nomination. I also wish to thank Annick Weiner and Robert Jeansoulin and the other members of the Embassy staff who arranged this ceremony.

There is one person who more than any other made this award possible. He was a great friend and tireless co-worker in pursuing closer ties among the scientific communities of France and the United States. I refer to the late Michel Israël. We worked closely together in promoting post-doctoral exchanges between American and French universities and in establishing the US/France S&T agreements, which I signed on behalf of the US and Minister ValériePécresse signed on behalf of France in October of 2008. It was after the first meeting of the Joint Committee in Paris in June 2009 that Michel and I celebrated a highly successful meeting. Shortly after

returning to the US I learned that Michel had died suddenly and unexpectedly. This has left a lingering sadness in my heart whenever I think of France.

There are many of you here and many more who are absent who share in this award. But I especially want to recognize my wife Louise who has steadfastly supported my career in government over the past nine years and my current career at Purdue University. Her love and support has sustained me over many difficult hurdles. Also I wish to recognize other members of our family who are here: our son David and his wife DeeDee and our son Rob Smiley.

I am especially pleased to see so many of my friends and colleagues from NIST and the NSF. There are no better federal agencies to be associated with.

In reflecting on the many cooperative scientific partnerships between France and the US involving the NSF, several stand out:

- One is the collaboration between American and French

ecologists and environmental scientists to conduct joint research in Alaska, Greenland, Antarctica, and the French sub-Antarctic Islands related to the International Polar Year.

- Another is an award under the NSF Partnerships for International Research and Education program to understand and predict the patterns, instabilities, and turbulence arising from multiphase flows. This project involves two US institutions, six institutions in France and five institutions in Japan.
- Also included are such bilateral and multilateral funding activities, such as the G-8 joint initiative in exoscale computing, the Materials World Network, and the International Collaborations in Chemistry program.
- Finally, I would also like to note several hundred joint collaborations between US and French investigators across all fields of scientific and engineering research.

In closing I feel that such a high award is more than a recognition of past efforts but a spur to continue to contribute to closer ties and scientific partnerships between the US and

France. I believe that my roles as Chief Global Affairs officer and director of the Global Policy Research Institute at Purdue University will give me this opportunity, and I am greatly honored that President Córdova and other leaders from Purdue are here to share my happiness in receiving this award.

Thank you.