Chairman Spurgeon, President Daniels, members of the board; on behalf of the students here at Purdue North Central, I would like to welcome each of you to our campus and I hope your time here is productive and enjoyable.

Since my last report in September, there have been many exciting things happening at Purdue North Central. Late last year PNC received the largest monetary donation in its history with a one-million dollar gift from local orthodontist Dr. Peter Kesling and his wife Charlene. In return for their generous gift, the gymnasium will be named the H.D. Kesling Gymnasium in honor of Dr. Kesling’s father. Local donations such as these prove that the communities surrounding Purdue North Central are committed to the education of our students and that Purdue is such a large part of our local identity.

Another great accomplishment for PNC is our rank as the best college in the nation for students with children according to the website, BestColleges.com. Also finishing in the Top Ten of this list are the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor at number two and the University of Florida at Gainesville at number 4. This ranking is an indication of PNC’s commitment to serving the broad range of students here. Through affordable tuition costs, on-campus child care, flexible scheduling, and convenient locations; PNC has increased the opportunities of local parents to further their educations and set good examples for their children.

Causing the most buzz here at PNC was the announcement several weeks ago regarding the unification of Purdue North Central and Purdue Calumet. Uniting both campuses under one administration will save money that can be redirected to academic areas such as the hiring of
more faculty, the formation of new degrees, and the acquisition of new equipment and technology. The first step of unification have already been taken with the appointment of Vice Chancellor Stephen Turner as the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration at both Purdue Calumet and Purdue North Central.

There are still many steps to take while moving forward with this ambitious plan. To help determine the best path for unification, Chancellors Dworkin and Keon have formed a Unification Committee comprised of 26 individuals from both campuses. Representing along with the two chancellors, faculty senate members, and other distinguished members are student representatives from each campus. As the Student Government President at Purdue North Central I am pleased to see that students will have a voice in the process that will greatly influence them and future students for decades to come.

I am optimistic that this plan will increase the presence of Purdue in Northwest Indiana. By combining the strengths of our respected campuses we will create an even more appealing option for students considering a regional campus experience. Placing students first on our list of priorities will ensure that we remain focused and committed to doing what is best for them throughout this process.

In conclusion, four years ago I came to PNC and participated in the leadership course that is sponsored by Chancellor Dworkin and his wife Nancy. During the first session Mrs. Dworkin asked all of us what our favorite thing was about PNC so far. Being an honest person and only having been on campus for three days I responded with my truthful answer. When asked what my favorite thing was so far, I said that I really liked the fact that the cafeteria served pizza every day. Thus began my campaign to rid myself of the reputation as the kid that
answered “pizza” when asked about his favorite part of school. I assure you that my answer would change now. In all seriousness, the last four years have been some of the best of my life so far. The faculty, staff, and students here at Purdue North Central have made this place my second home. And as I finish my studies here and begin student teaching in the fall I hope my successor can report to you more great things happening here.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.