



**D.S. Davidson Invention to Innovation Center
The University of Alabama in Huntsville
Groundbreaking ceremony – October 17, 2017 – 1 p.m.
President Altenkirch**

- Today, I am honored to welcome our many distinguished guests to the campus of The University of Alabama in Huntsville. I want to recognize

Shan McMillian representing Senator Luther Strange

Tiffany Noel and Mark Pettit representing Congressman Mo Brooks

State Representative Laura Hall

Kathy and Tony Chan, longtime supporters of UAH

Project Architects Fuqua and Partners represented by Joe Fuqua.

Other will be recognized a little later in the program

- We are ceremonially breaking ground for construction of the D.S. Davidson Invention to Innovation Center. When this facility is occupied in early 2019, this incubator will stimulate the growth of new and existing high-tech companies and catalyze formation of a resilient entrepreneurial ecosystem in north Alabama region.
- The D.S. Davidson Invention to Innovation Center will play a critical role in increasing the number of inventions that are developed into

successful innovations, start-up firms, and economic growth initiatives. I want to recognize the Director of the Center, Rignved Joshi.

- Success will be measured by (1) increased numbers of high tech start-ups, (2) expansion opportunities for existing high-tech companies, and (3) diversification of the employment base to include more private sector jobs.
- The center will also serve to expand the already strong relationships that exist between UAH and the federal agencies on Redstone Arsenal and the numerous companies in Cummings Research Park.
- We have been fortunate to receive the support of numerous partners to bring us to the beginning of construction for this regional technology incubator. Let me mention the important associates of this project.
- Dorothy Davidson, the state of Alabama, U.S. Senator Richard Shelby, the U.S. Economic Development Administration, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the city of Huntsville, Madison County and the UAH Foundation, and The Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama who approved the project for UAH.
- Support from these groups and individuals has been instrumental in getting this project off the ground and we are truly grateful for their assistance.
- Today, you will hear from H. Philip Paradise Jr., the Regional Director of the U.S. Economic Development Administration. Mr. Paradise and the EDA worked diligently with us to support this project and we are appreciative of those efforts.
- Mr. Paradise will be followed on the program by Dorothy Davidson – Chief Executive Officer of Davidson Technologies Inc.

and a leading Huntsville philanthropist. A private gift from Dorothy was pivotal in advancing this project in a timely fashion. She will be followed by Alabama Governor Kay Ivey. The state was a key partner in providing capital investment for this facility.

Closing

(Gov. Ivey concludes her remarks. You walk to the podium)

Gov. Ivey, we're honored by your presence here today. This technology-based incubator will become an important part of an economic development strategy for our entire region, and we believe it will be an important source of company and job creation for the state of Alabama.

Now, I want to invite our partners in this endeavor to join us in today's groundbreaking ceremony.

- The state of Alabama: Governor Kay Ivey
- Our private sector partner: Dorothy Davidson
- The Board of Trustees: President Pro Tem Ron Gray
- Our federal partners:
 - Economic Development Administration: Regional Director Philip Paradise
 - TVA: Regional Development Specialist Joseph Burchfield
 - U.S. Senator Richard Shelby: Field representative Carrie Suggs
- Local government partners:
 - Huntsville: Mayor Tommy Battle
 - Madison County Commission: Chairman Dale Strong
- And from UAH: VP for Research & Economic Development: Ray Vaughn

