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Good afternoon, everyone. It’s such a delight to be back here in this part of the country. I spent the first third of my career down the road in Hanover, New Hampshire, as an early employee of a software company called Fluent. Lots of hard work, lots of fun, lots of learning – it’s part of why I’ve always loved this part of the world. And so it is doubly delightful to be back here for this particular occasion – the installation of Suresh Garimella as President of the University of Vermont.

As I prepared for this occasion, I thought a lot about how to introduce my dear friend Suresh to you. We have been close friends and collaborators for a long time now. I could of course talk to you about his resume – the hundreds of publications, the national prizes, highly-placed students, dazzling amounts of funding...if you don’t mind feeling inadequate, I will talk to you about that. And then there is Suresh the
person – husband, father, son, teacher, mentor, collaborator, colleague, boss...I’ll talk to you about that too. And hopefully, from this composite will emerge the portrait of the Suresh I know – extraordinarily talented, extraordinarily competent, and extraordinarily caring.

First, research. Suresh and I work in the area of heat transfer, and Suresh has been a recognized leader in microelectronics thermal management. His work undergirds why your laptops don’t burn down and why data centers work. He’s explored new ways of cooling microelectronics – ideas like microchannel cooling, novel heat pipes and vapor chambers, and new ideas such as electrowetting. For this work, he has been recognized with virtually every prize the thermal sciences community has to offer, and his work permeates industries such as Intel, Motorola, IBM – you name it. I remember his Cooling Technologies Research Consortium – CTRC – an industry consortium he ran for many decades, faithfully supported by a set of industry partners.
They came back year after year, hired – grabbed - his students, and remain connected to Suresh after so long. There is not a company in this field that does not have a Garimella protégé who is moving and shaking things up.

And then there is teaching. When I first met Suresh, I was sure there was some sort of trick up his sleeve. Either the guy did not sleep, or there were actually two of him. How was it possible to run huge research groups – frequently 20 students or more – and give each student adequate attention? How was it possible to teach undergraduates with painstaking care? But somehow he did it – I haven’t entirely figured out how yet – but he did it. I remember the papers we wrote together with our students. These were painstakingly edited – frequently a mass of red that the poor student had to go away and fix – and full of sharp queries and comments. The best guess I have is that he is extraordinarily self-disciplined and efficient, and a genius at
running things – at getting people to perform at their best. You all will see this aspect of Suresh here at the University of Vermont.

But all this stuff about research productivity, teaching effectiveness and administrative chops don’t tell you much about Suresh the person. I first got to know Suresh when I joined the faculty of the School of Mechanical Engineering at Purdue. I was one of three women in the department at that time, and its first female Full Professor. Now Full Professors are grown up people, and don’t need a lot of help, but I will tell you – when you’re one of three, grown up or not, life can get lonely. We quickly struck up a close collaboration, sharing ideas and students, and we worked on a lot of fun stuff together. Suresh has always been a phenomenal supporter of women – his lab always seemed to produce these confident and successful young women who, to this day, will tell you what a phenomenal experience they had in his lab. Suresh’s support of diversity is real, and comes from deep belief. And Suresh folded me into his family – Lakshmi, and their two children Shruti and
Sanjay, were a warm and welcoming presence all through my stay in Purdue. I have always been struck by Suresh’s relationship to his children, and to his students. Always warm and caring, always honest, never harsh – and always on their side.

So congratulations, Suresh, and congratulations, University of Vermont. I know you will do great things together, and I know Suresh will bring all of his enormous energy, intelligence, and imagination to his work here. I can’t wait to see what the future holds, and I wish you all the very best.