

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-2004

December 3, 2008

Dear Friends:

I want to extend my warmest welcome to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) employees and guests attending this year's Annual Awards Ceremony. Today's award ceremony is a way to say thank you for all you do.

Our economy has become a global one, and I appreciate the dedication of NIST employees to ensuring the United States remains a global leader in science and engineering in the 21st century. Your groundbreaking work has made countless innovations possible, and I remain committed to your mission. In our current economic environment, we are facing many challenges and we rely on the work of NIST to ensure that our nation maintains its competitive edge.

Earlier this year, I had the honor of visiting NIST and I was impressed by the work you are doing. From developing safer, fire-resistant buildings, to studying fuel cells at the sub-atomic level, I saw the results of America's scientific ingenuity right here in Maryland. As a member of the Senate Budget Committee, I strongly support greater resources for NIST that will help support the important research and development that you do.

I also want to extend my congratulations to the 118 NIST staff members who are being honored today for their exemplary service in support of NIST's mission. We are all proud of what you have accomplished and appreciate your hard work and dedication.

For more than 100 years, NIST has been a leader in promoting American innovation and industrial competitiveness through advancing measurement science, standards, and technology in ways that enhance our economic security and improve our quality of life. The United States appreciates what you have accomplished.

Thank you and best wishes.

Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

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