

companies like Intel struggle to hire American workers with the skills that fit their needs.

If we want to win the global competition for new jobs and industries, we've got to win the global competition to educate our people. We've got to have the best trained, best skilled workforce in the world. That's how we'll ensure that the next Intel, the next Google, or the next Microsoft is created in America and hires American workers.

This is why, over the past 2 years, my administration has made education a top priority. We've launched a competition called Race to the Top, a reform that's lifting academic standards and getting results, not because Washington dictated the answers, but because States and local schools pursued innovative solutions. We're also making college more affordable for millions of students and revitalizing our community colleges so that folks can get the training they need for the careers they want. And as part of this effort, we've launched a nationwide initiative to connect graduates that need jobs with businesses that need their skills.

Intel understands how important these partnerships can be, recognizing that their company's success depends on a pipeline of skilled people ready to fill high-wage, high-tech jobs. Intel often pays for workers to continue their education at nearby Portland State University. As a result, 1 out of every 15 of Intel's Oregon employees has a degree from Portland State.

In fact, Intel's commitment to education begins at an even younger age. The company is providing training to help a hundred thousand math and science teachers improve their skills in the classroom. And today I'm also meeting a few students from Oregon who impressed the judges in the high school science and engineering competitions that Intel sponsors across America.

One young woman, Laurie Rumker, conducted a chemistry experiment to investigate ways to protect our water from pollution. Another student, named Yushi Wang, applied the principles of quantum physics to design a faster computer chip. We're talking about high school students.

So these have been a tough few years for our country, and in tough times, it's natural to question what the future holds. But when you meet young people like Laurie and Yushi, it's hard not to be inspired. And it's impossible not to be confident about America.

We're poised to lead in this new century, and not just because of the good work that large companies like Intel are doing. Across America, there are innovators and entrepreneurs who are trying to start the next Intel or just get a small business of their own off the ground. I'll be meeting with some of these men and women next week in Cleveland to get ideas about what we can do to help their companies grow and create jobs.

The truth is, we have everything we need to compete: bold entrepreneurs, bright new ideas, and world-class colleges and universities. Most of all, we have young people just brimming with promise and ready to help us succeed. All we have to do is tap that potential. That's the lesson on display here at Intel, and that's how America will win the future.

Thanks so much.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 11:05 a.m. on February 18 at Intel Corp. in Hillsboro, OR, for broadcast on February 19. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 18, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on February 19.

Remarks at the Opening Session of the Winning the Future Forum on Small Business in Cleveland, Ohio *February 22, 2011*

Thank you very much. Please, everybody have a seat. It is wonderful to be here, and I

just want to say thank you for our hosts at KSU for—or CSU, rather, excuse me, the—for their

hospitality. This is the second time I've had a chance to be here and always enjoy interacting both with the team here as well as the surrounding community.

I want to make some quick introductions because we've got some special guests. Our SBA Administrator, Karen Mills, is here—there she is. Members of my Cabinet: Secretary of the Treasury Tim Geithner, Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke, Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, Secretary of Energy Steve Chu. We have Mr. Austan Goolsbee, who's our Chairman of the Economic Council. And my Director of the National Economic Council, Gene Sperling, is here as well.

And I want to say a special thank you to Steve Case, who is not only an extraordinary entrepreneur and business leader, but is also—has agreed to chair the Startup America Partnership, which is a public-private partnership to help move the entrepreneurship agenda forward. So thank you so much, Steve, for your presence here today.

It is wonderful to be back in Ohio, and we're going to do something a little different today. I did not come to Cleveland to talk. Instead, I came here to listen. I've spent the last month since the State of the Union sharing my vision for an America that remains the best place on Earth to do business, an America that competes aggressively for every job and every industry that's out there, an America that wins the future.

Part of that means making sure that government lives within its means, just like you do. And that's why I've designed a budget that freezes spending for 5 years and will help reduce the deficit by \$400 billion over the next decade to the lowest level since Dwight Eisenhower was President. Because by cutting back on what we don't need, we can invest in the future. We can invest in the things that are critical to our long-term success: in innovation, so that America stays on the cutting edge; in education, so businesses have access to the skilled workers that they need; in upgrading our transportation and information networks, so companies can move goods and services quickly and cheaply.

So winning the future involves outeducating, outinnovating, outbuilding, out hustling everybody else. And it's entrepreneurs like you who will help America do just that.

Obviously, the big companies generally get most of the attention in our economy, and the success of large companies is critical to the success of medium and small businesses as well. But it's small businesses like yours that help drive America's economic growth and create two out of every three new jobs.

You're the anchors of our Main Streets, small businesses built by folks who live and work in the community and look out for one another that end up determining success or failure of cities and towns. They're the cornerstones of America's promise, the idea that if you've got a dream and you've got the work ethic to see it through, you can succeed. And when our small businesses do well, then America does well.

That's why we convened this Winning the Future Forum for Small Business. Along with Cleveland State and local organizations like JumpStart and NorTech, we looked for entrepreneurs, here in northeast Ohio, who live to out hustle, to outinnovate everybody else in manufacturing and construction, in clean energy and biotech, in retail, in restaurants, including the owners of Bubba's BBQ, who I imagine will be one of the more popular participants today.

We're here to hear from you directly. We want your stories: your successes, your failures, what barriers you're seeing out there to expand, what you've learned along the way. What would make it easier for you to grow? What would make it easier for you to create new jobs? How can America help you succeed so that you can help America succeed?

So we've pulled together five panels for discussion that will be moderated by various members of my administration: panels on inspiring entrepreneurship, on accessing capital, on training workers with the new skills they need for the job, on accelerating a clean energy economy, and on growing our exports so that the rest of the world buys the products that we make here in the United States of America. And we'll have a special sixth session, where I'll

join Austan Goolsbee, the Chairman of my Council of Economic Advisers, as he takes questions and suggestions from Americans live on whitehouse.gov and on Facebook.

So I'm going to be sitting in on some of the other panels to make sure that my staff is doing their work. And then we're going to come back here, and I'll try to sum up what I've heard.

So again, I am very grateful for all of you being here. This is a working session, not a photo op, so I expect all of you will express your opin-

ions clearly. You won't hold anything back. And I'm looking forward to hearing from you and then trying to make sure that we're a good partner in helping you implement the great ideas that you have.

Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:38 a.m. at Cleveland State University. In his remarks, he referred to J. Albert "Bubba" and Sabrina Baker, founders and owners, Bubba's Q Bar-B-Q and Catering.

Remarks in a Discussion at the Entrepreneur Session of the Winning the Future Forum on Small Business in Cleveland

February 22, 2011

Small Business Administration Administrator Karen G. Mills. So, Mr. President, we were just talking about you and how much you love doing this and how much you enjoy hearing from the small businesses. And raise your hand. Who is a small business in here?

The President. There you go.

Administrator Mills. Okay, there you go. And I thought you might want to meet Al from Bubba's BBQ.

The President. I just gave you a plug. [Laughter]

Administrator Mills. He says he's still shaking, you know.

The President. Where are the samples? [Laughter]

J. Albert "Bubba" Baker. Well, I brought pictures, but—

The President. Pictures? [Laughter]

Mr. Baker. Mr. President, I spent 13 years in the NFL, and I've never been shaken until today. [Laughter]

Administrator Mills. There you go.

The President. Well, the—listen, everybody, welcome. And it's great to see you. As I just mentioned when we were all together, the goal here really is to hear from you. And I just want to emphasize in this panel the whole issue of entrepreneurship and why it's so important.

The truth is, is that large companies are critically important to our economy: They export,

they employ thousands of people, and they also provide contracts to small businesses. So there's a little bit of an artificial separation sometimes. If large businesses are doing well, then small businesses also have an opportunity for great success.

But here's the unique thing about small businesses. Small businesses that grow into medium-sized and large businesses, that's the key to the future, because it's the new products, it's the new services, things that nobody else thought of before that are going to help absorb all the talented Americans out there who are looking for careers. And the large companies, there's only going to be so much additional employment that they add, partly because they're getting more and more efficient.

So what we want to figure out is how can we help you succeed. Now, many of you are already succeeding, so you can help us understand what it takes to help others succeed. The most important ingredients obviously are your work ethic, your—you initially have an idea, you're willing to take risks, you're willing to try to talk your family into going along with it, you're willing to hustle and scrape to get the financing, to market, to expand sales. We understand that you are the most important ingredient to success.