

President's Remarks at HU's Manufacturing Week Kickoff

Dr. Christopher M. Reber, President | Tuesday, October 6, 2026

As prepared for delivery

Harrisburg University President Christopher M. Reber delivered the following remarks on Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2026, during a campus visit by U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson, U.S. Rep. Scott Perry, U.S. Rep. Lisa McClain, and Sen. Greg Rothman to kick off Manufacturing Week.

Good morning and welcome to Harrisburg University of Science and Technology! My name is Chris Reber, and it has been my honor to serve as president of Harrisburg University since June.

Speaker Johnson, Congressman Perry, Congresswoman McClain, and Senator Rothman, thank you for joining us today.

Twenty-five years ago, a group of academic, business, and civic leaders looked at Pennsylvania's capital city and saw something missing: a university that could bridge STEM innovation with workforce development. They built a university with a clearly defined purpose: to educate people for the jobs this region and this country would need next.

That purpose still defines us. Harrisburg University was the first independent, nonprofit science and technology university founded in Pennsylvania in more than a century.

Today, more than 10,000 learners from across the Commonwealth and more than 120 countries study with us each year, from high school to working professionals. Many of them are the first in their families to attend college. And when they arrive at HU, they find out what it really means to "learn by doing."

Our advanced manufacturing students work alongside our STORMWERX research center, as well as our industry and military partners. These students are 3D printing new parts, training Warfighters on reverse engineering and field repairs, and finding

novel ways to get equipment to our men and women in uniform faster and at a lower cost.

That is HU's value proposition: an education that is applied from day one, connected to employers, and accountable for results. And we measure our success by what our graduates go on to build.

Thank you again for joining us today. We are pleased to share our vision for the future of American manufacturing and truly grateful for your partnership. I know we're going to do extraordinary things together.

