Mr. Chancellor, in an age of rapid technological advancement, Dr. Kenneth Spencer has been a trail-blazing innovator and entrepreneur. A British Columbian of imagination and daring, he has made significant contributions not only to the economy, but also to higher education.

Few people in this province possess his depth of academic training and business experience. He earned a PhD in electrical engineering at The University of British Columbia, and an MBA at our University. His trajectory through the corporate world was swift and sure, culminating with his appointment as Vice President and General Manager of MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates, and later as General Manager of Glenayre Electronics. This early success, however, was but a prelude to his subsequent achievement.

In 1983, he co-founded Creo Products, a high-tech company that develops and manufactures cutting-edge technology using electronics and precision mechanics and optics. Three words encapsulate Creo's ethos: imagine, create, believe. This philosophy guided a fledgling venture that began in the basement of one of the founder's homes to what it is today - a world-renowned corporation, employing 1,500 people and enjoying annual sales of more than 200 million dollars.

Throughout his career, Ken Spencer has made time to contribute to the business community and to higher education. Now retired as Creo's Chief Executive Officer, he acts as a mentor to several of this province's most promising new high-tech companies and serves on the boards of the BC Institute of Technology, Science World, Viratest, and Datum Telegraphic. Simon Fraser University, too, has benefited directly from his talent and vision. Ken Spencer has worked closely with our School of Engineering Science since its founding, his insight and advice proving invaluable in matters of curriculum. An adjunct professor since 1991, he has given lectures to students and faculty, adding a much appreciated business perspective to the study of applied sciences. We have gained greatly from his wise counsel. The company he co-founded provides co-op positions and hires many of our students upon graduation and also funds an annual scholarship for engineering students.

Kenneth Spencer combined his lifelong interest in science with his passion for business and achieved great success. He has generously shared that success with his peers, his community, and this University. In 1999, he received the Cecil Green Award for Technology Entrepreneurship. Today, Simon Fraser University honours a great mentor and distinguished British Columbian. Mr. Chancellor, on behalf of the Senate of this University, I ask that you confer upon Dr. Kenneth Spencer the degree Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.