

### **Introduction**

- Good evening and thank you all for being here tonight to support the Albuquerque International Association.
- My name is Jim Chavez, and I currently serve as the vice president of Global Security programs at Sandia National Laboratories.
- I am pleased and honored to introduce the winner of the 2016 AIA International Excellence Award, Jill Hruby.

### **About Jill**

- During her long tenure at Sandia, Jill Hruby has made a national and international impact.
- Jill is the first woman to be named the director of a National Nuclear Security Administration national laboratory. In this capacity, she leads more than 12,000 people and manages a budget of just over \$3 billion in support of our efforts to anticipate and solve some of the nation's most difficult security problems.
- The Labs' programs aimed at decreasing nuclear, chemical, and biological threats have touched countries around the world, including Russia, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, China, the Republic of Korea, Japan, Africa, and more.
- During the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster, for example, a crystalline silico-titanate molecular sieve developed in Jill's organization was used to capture and separate highly volatile elements from more than 43 million gallons of contaminated wastewater.
- Jill's outreach in the United Arab Emirates helped to establish the Gulf Nuclear Energy Infrastructure Institute, or GNEII. Developed in partnership with Khalifa University and Texas A&M, GNEII promotes a responsible nuclear power culture by providing safety, security, and nonproliferation training to future decision makers in the Gulf region.
- Jill was also instrumental in establishing the Center of Excellence for nuclear security in China, which was commissioned in March 2016. Our team provided a physical protection system used for training at a mock nuclear material processing facility at the Center of Excellence. Sandia will continue to provide training to support nuclear security best practices in China and across the region.
- During the Ebola outbreak in 2015, Jill's expert teams travelled to West Africa to model national infrastructure and reduce sample transport times, which ultimately helped save lives. Sandia researchers also assessed international transportation policy to inform hospital response in the United States.
- Jill has also actively engaged with international organizations including the International Atomic Energy Agency, Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization, and NATO. She will be part of a panel discussing nuclear material and facility security at an International Atomic Energy Agency conference this December.

### **Conclusion**

- Thank you, Jill, for your service to the nation and the international community. I am proud to be here tonight to share some of your remarkable accomplishments on behalf of your friends and colleagues at Sandia.
- Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in a round of applause for this year's AIA International Excellence Award, Jill Hruby.