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Coming Back Together Evening Reception

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Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on Friday, September 19, 2014

Location: Laura H. Milton Atrium

Remarks: Coming Back Together Evening Reception

*The Chancellor was introduced by Vice President,
Office of Program Development, Larry Martin*

Thank you, Larry. I would just like to start by acknowledging the great work you and your staff have done in putting together this reunion weekend, including:

- Miguel A. Sapp, executive director, development and alumni relations
- Angela Morales-Patterson, manager of alumni programs
- Susan Blanca, administrative specialist
- Maliz Mahop, student work study
- and Diorra Simone Cole
- Thank you also to Campus Catering.

I also would like to especially thank our two alumni co-chairs for CBT weekend, Reinaldo Pascual and Kim Blackwell; and our student co-chairs, Chantal M. Felice and Anthony Herbert. They have worked hard to organize a memorable weekend, and this turnout strongly suggests their efforts have paid off.

In fact, the response to this year's invitation was so enthusiastic that this reception in past years has been held at the Chancellor's House. Due to the enthusiastic response to this year's invitation, we moved the location here to the beautiful Laura H. Milton Atrium. So thank you all for being with us.

It is especially great to see so many alumni and students together, because CBT is not just about celebrating the past. It is also about building connections between past and present. So I urge students to take advantage of the opportunity to get to know these amazing alumni. Learn from them and take inspiration from them.

And alumni, get to know these students. Mentor and encourage them. Someday they will be where you are now, reaching out to and inspiring future generations of students and alumni. That cycle of support is one of the great things about Syracuse, and it is what makes CBT such a distinctive tradition.

In that spirit of connectedness, I would like to share just briefly what I see as some of our key priorities to make Syracuse the best university it can be. The first is to ensure that every student who comes here gets an outstanding educational experience. That starts with building an unrivalled College of Arts and Sciences—a college that affords a distinctive, broad, and deep education in the liberal arts and sciences to all of our students.

Second, we need to empower research excellence. I believe we do that by promoting faculty-student collaboration across disciplines, faculties, departments, and schools.

Third, we must embrace change, because with change comes opportunity. Syracuse has a long history as a place of innovation, and Coming Back Together is a perfect example of that legacy.

Finally, I think we must work to become the best university for veterans. I know all of you here share Syracuse's commitment to empowering opportunity through education. This goal takes on additional significance when you consider that today's military is more diverse than ever. We

must continue to build on that legacy of supporting our veterans when they return home.

These are ambitious goals, and we have a lot of work to do to achieve them. I invite all of you—alumni and students—to be a part of the conversation as we move forward. The University needs your ideas, your energy, and your support.

Thank you for coming back to reconnect with one another and with the University community. Enjoy the rest of your weekend.

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