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Golden Anniversary, Class of 1964, Orange Central

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Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on Saturday, October 11, 2014

Location: Life Sciences Complex Atrium

Remarks: Golden Anniversary, Class of 1964, Orange Central

The Chancellor was introduced by Jack Eberenz, Class of '64

Thank you, Jack. Good evening and welcome back to Syracuse University for Orange Central Weekend and your Golden Anniversary celebration.

It is a pleasure to be here with you during this time as you reconnect with friends, campus, and everything that made Syracuse meaningful to you.

I want to give a special thanks to the 50th Reunion Committee, led by committee chairs Linda and Ron Brzezinski, for their hard work in planning this evening. I also want to recognize the work of Cristina Swift, assistant director of alumni relations in the Office of Alumni Engagement, in putting together this wonderful evening.

Much has changed on the campus since your time here, but Syracuse University will continue to be home to all of you. There's new buildings and programs but hopefully you recognize the same core attitude and beliefs that remain constant.

This is a great University where, when we are at our best, we are about knowledge and becoming the best. We should aim high because we all want our University to get better in the future.

The greatest contribution Syracuse University can make to the world is to be a great, thriving, and engaged international research university. We do that by pursuing cutting-edge research and scholarship. By attracting students hungry for knowledge and willing to work hard to attain it.

Tonight is a night for celebrating and connecting, but I wanted to share with you a short summary of what we are doing to aim high and move forward.

We are in the process of further strengthening our institution and clarifying our priorities through the recently launched strategic initiative, Fast Forward Syracuse. This effort is three-pronged and includes participation by alumni, students, faculty, staff, board leadership, and other stakeholders.

The three components are:

- An Academic Strategic Plan, centered on academics, that lays out a shared vision for the University and identifies clear priorities.
- A Campus Master Plan to guide decisions about the University's strategic infrastructure needs.
- An Operational Excellence Program to help the University be more effective, maximize efficiencies, and create opportunities to fund investments in the Academic Strategic Plan and Campus Master Plan.

Development of the Academic Strategic Plan and Campus Master Plan will be completed by next spring, but implementation of all three components will be a multi-year process. It will provide the key strategic direction and framework for propelling the University forward, fostering academic and operational excellence, and meeting the challenges ahead.

One of the priorities we are focused on as we move forward is our special connection with veterans. I believe we must once again become the best place for veterans. We have done it before, and we can do it again. We do it by building on the work of the Institute for Veterans and Military

Families on campus and other cross-campus initiatives that advance opportunity for those who have borne the battle.

With the priorities clear, the overarching goal of this work is to position Syracuse strongly as an innovator and leader among its peers in advancing excellence and assuring successful outcomes for our students. And in turn those students will be alumni, such as you, who will bring their own unique contributions to the world.

I hope this weekend has brought back great memories and that you have made some additional memories during the weekend.

Please continue to stay in touch with your alma mater. You provide our current student body and alumni population with much guidance and wisdom. We are so proud to have you back here as members of the Syracuse University family.

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