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Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on Thursday, March 26, 2015

Location: Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel and Conference Center

Remarks: Orange Circle Awards

The Chancellor was introduced by Student Philanthropy Council, Ashlee Newman and Ivan Robles

Thank you, Ashlee and Ivan, and thank you to all the members of the Student Philanthropy Council and the Class Act Committee.

I thank you for your dedication to building a philanthropic culture on campus. Your work ensures that Syracuse University will continue to grow in the future.

There are many people here who play crucial roles in advancing the work and mission of Syracuse University. I would like to acknowledge:

Trustee Ann Stevenson, who is with us today,

And our Advancement staff; and

The University's Marketing and Communications team for helping produce tonight's event.

I want to especially acknowledge Board of Trustees Vice Chairman Howard (Howie) Phanstiel ('70, G'71) and his wife, Louise.

In 2010, the Phanstiels announced a transformational gift to Syracuse University to create the Louise and Howard Phanstiel Scholars program.

The program awards scholarship grants to middle-class students who have demonstrated the potential for academic success and community leadership.

This May, the first class of Phanstiel Scholars will graduate from Syracuse University.

Would all of the Phanstiel Scholars please stand and be recognized?

As so many of the scholarship donors in this room know, without you, many students would not have the opportunity to attend, and eventually graduate from Syracuse University.

So thank you to all of you.

Let me give you four recent examples of the impact of philanthropy at SU.

We see the impact of philanthropy and of your generosity in many ways across the Syracuse University campus and community. A few examples:

A donation from parents Mark and Christine Turner to Syracuse University Libraries enabled us to replace outdated furniture in the basement and first floor of Bird Library.

This provided new spaces for students to study.

The new space is beautiful; if you haven't been inside recently, make sure to take a look.

Next, the Charles Brightman Endowed Professorship of Physics was recently established through a \$1.4 million bequest to the Department of Physics in the College of Arts and Sciences.

This gift was made by Joseph and Charlotte Stone '37, in honor of Charlotte's father, who taught physics at Syracuse University for more than three decades.

The professorship is designed to attract and retain the best physicists in the field, and to strengthen research in the college.

There are many people in this room who will leave a legacy at Syracuse University thanks to an estate gift.

At Syracuse University, we call donors like you pathfinders, and we thank you for having the dedication to ensure this University stays great, even beyond your own lifetime.

Another example can be found in the iSchool where CuseFunder, Syracuse University's new crowdfunding site, was recently used to start a program called Data by the Lake.

This unique immersion program combines a semester-long course in applied data science with a spring break trip to Chicago.

There, students met with companies and learned about real-world data science challenges and initiatives.

The results of the data analysis will be presented to the organizations at the end of the semester.

This new approach to fundraise allows for smaller projects to be funded.

And lastly, in February, First Data announced a \$7 million partnership with the Institute for Veterans and Military Families.

This seven-year commitment funds education research, training and opportunities for transitioning veterans and military spouse, small business owners.

A grant from the Schultz Family Foundation was critical to the March launch of a program called Onward to Opportunity. This groundbreaking program delivers tailored, industry-specific training and certifications to service members and spouses on U.S. military bases prior to transition to civilian life.

As you can see, philanthropy, in its many diverse forms, is crucial in our drive to be a great, thriving, engaged, and diverse international research university.

One person who exemplifies philanthropy at Syracuse University is Todd Rubin, a 2004 graduate of the School of Architecture.

Todd is with us tonight to deliver the Phanstiel Lecture, and also to receive the Generation Orange Award.

Todd would you please join me on the stage?

The Generation Orange Award recognizes young alumni who have already demonstrated a great dedication to Syracuse University and their own communities.

Todd was unable to come to campus in the fall during Orange Central to receive the award. Tonight seemed like a perfect time to present it to him formally.

Todd has accomplished much professionally while serving as the vice president at The Republic of Tea.

And he is kind enough to bring some of that tea for us all to enjoy at the reception this evening. But, Todd, you have also given so much to Syracuse University.

As are a member of the School of Architecture's Advisory Board and the San Francisco Regional Council, your generous gift to the School of Architecture established the Rubin Global Design Studio.

This program brings a visiting architect to Syracuse to teach a design studio in collaboration with a faculty member, and takes first-year graduate students to an international city for a week to study and analyze modern and contemporary urban and architectural design.

The trip is a unique opportunity for architecture students to experience the cultural and political conditions that produce a city with quality public space, public housing, and sustainability policies.

Todd, your vision brings the world to Syracuse, and Syracuse to the world. I am happy to present you with the Generation Orange Award. Congratulations.

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