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Chancellor's Remarks at the Announcement of Vice Chancellor and Provost-Designate, Michele Wheatly Event

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SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on March 7, 2016

Location: Life Sciences Building, Jack and Laura Hanhausen Milton Atrium

Remarks: Chancellor's Remarks at the Announcement of Vice Chancellor and Provost-Designate, Michele Wheatly Event

*The Chancellor was introduced by Aysha Seedat,
President of the Syracuse University Student Association*

So we are counting on Aysha (Seedat) graduating in ten weeks. She's graduating from Whitman. We didn't know when she started that she'd also be getting a certificate in Higher Education and Administration. Because this is one of three top executive searches she is representing Student Association on. And this is just the first so you'll see her at two other great announcements before the year is up. I am very grateful to Aysha for doing that on top of everything else.

Before I thank anyone else I want to thank Dr. Wheatly's family, who are here. I know others might say something about them but I want to say that, having moved a family to Syracuse not so long ago, that this is a warm and welcoming place. And you will find it in many ways. And yet nevertheless asking you to move your whole lives here so that one member of your family can give their all, eighteen hours a day, seven days a week, is a lot. To Stan (Michele's spouse), to her children Skip and Veronica and Marguerite: we're very grateful for you letting her doing this and for supporting her in this, and we want to be supportive of to you in whatever way you need in the years ahead—some of them have driven a long way to be here and are driving right back. Can we say thank you them?

This is a great day for Syracuse University. We are excited to be with all of you as we welcome and celebrate Michele Wheatly as our next Vice Chancellor and Provost.

I must begin by thanking all those who helped bring us to this momentous announcement. This was an extraordinary search committee. It was a long search. I thank them all. I thank Pat Mautino from the Board of Trustees, who represented the Board, and Jim Breuer, a former trustee who also served wonderfully.

- I thank some great faculty members from across the University: Jean-Francois Bedard; Tej Bhatia; Keith Bybee; Alejandro Garcia; Cristina Marchetti; and Ian MacInnes, all of whom were spectacular
- Dean Lorraine Branham;
- Vice Chancellor Mike Haynie;
- Director of Budget and Planning Gwenn Judge;
- Patrick Neary, past president of the Graduate Student Organization; and
- And Aysha Seedat, president of the Student Association.
- And most thankfully, their fearless leader, in quite a journey, Charley Driscoll, who really led with great examples of great leadership all along the way.

The search was aided by Nancy Freeman from Business, Finance, and Administrative Services, and Hengel Reina from the Chancellor's Office. I am grateful to for their work in ensuring that the search process ran smoothly.

I am also grateful to our Interim Vice Chancellor and Provost, Liz Liddy, who has spent the past 14 months in this role. She has been instrumental in successfully crafting the University's Academic Strategic Plan and setting up her successor for success. She's had a real entrepreneurial collaborative spirit and I am grateful so much to you, Liz, not just for what's happened so far but what's to happen between now and Commencement.

And in order to enable Liz to do this Jeff Stanton stepped up as interim dean of the iSchool in Liz's absence. Jeff, thank you for your leadership during this important time.

It was a long search. It was a genuine open search, characterized by a process of collaboration with shared governance, including with the Agenda Committee in the Senate which helped select many of the members of the search committee. It was a search that had spectacular nominees. Many who have been so wonderful at other institutions and at this one, and to whom I'm grateful. It is a search that got a lot of people excited and got a lot of people anxious as it went

on. A lot of people asked me about it during the process. I think a lot of people were anxious because they knew what an opportunity this was for Syracuse University, an opportunity to shape this university for the future in so many areas – teaching, research, service and the student experience, as well as service to the community. With so many amazing students, and people and ideas happening here, it was an opportunity to reach even higher and become even better.

Today I am the one who is excited and not anxious. I'm excited today because I know Michele is the right person to lead us forward at this critical time in our history. She has demonstrated the kind of leadership that enhances the student experience; that empowers research excellence; that ensures academic quality; and embraces change. The Board of Trustees agrees that Michele will bring tremendous strengths and promise to this University, and Executive Committee of the Board unanimously approved her appointment.

Michele is a visionary academic leader, an internationally recognized scholar and researcher, as you heard Charley just summarize, including securing funding from the National Science Foundation, totaling \$25 million.

She has taught and mentored undergraduate and graduate students for nearly thirty years.

She is an experienced and indeed expert Provost, who while at West Virginia recruited more than 100 research faculty.

She provided a pathway to success for more than 150 women via her Women's Leadership Initiative, a program she created and managed while at West Virginia.

Michele has dedicated her career to promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion in the classroom and across the campus, and is committed to continuing to doing that at Syracuse.

She's passionate about bringing diverse interests together in the pursuit of interdisciplinary scholarship.

She has a deep belief that no education is complete without the liberal arts.

Her extensive experience creating and implementing academic strategic plans makes her the ideal person to implement our Academic Strategic Plan. Michele is going to be critical to the leadership as we enhance our stature as a great, thriving, diverse international research university.

And so I'm overjoyed to welcome her to Syracuse University. I look forward to all the great things all of us here today and all Syracuse people around the world are going to do together under her leadership.

Thank you, Michele, for being here.

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