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Chancellor's Remarks at the Our Time has Come Scholarship Reception

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SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on April 7, 2016

Location: Sheraton University Hotel

Remarks: Chancellor's Remarks at the Our Time has Come Scholarship Reception

*The Chancellor was introduced Miguel Sapp,
Executive Director for Development and Alumni Relations.*

Thank you, Miguel. One of the pleasures of being Chancellor is watching extraordinary young men and women rewarded for hard work and perseverance. Ruth and I are honored to be here for such a moment.

I would like to thank the diligent staff from the Office of Program Development who did so much to put together this reception:

- Miguel A. Sapp, executive director, development and alumni relations.
- Angela Morales-Patterson, manager of alumni programs.
- Susan Blanca, administrative specialist.
- And Sonya Mattis, student assistant.

I want to thank the faculty members who have invested so much passion and hope in each of these students. I would also like to thank the parents, relatives, mentors and friends who have been there for these young people every step of their journey.

I believe those being honored tonight understand this truth: That love and support are the foundation of this celebration.

When I look around the room, I recognize many of you from Coming Back Together gatherings. Those events are at the core of what we want to be as a university: a welcoming place. An institution of higher learning eager to nurture and inspire young men and women who are equally eager for that opportunity.

Join together those aspirations, and you do work of lasting meaning.

For almost 30 years, Our Time Has Come has played a critically important role on this campus. The name itself speaks to both the need and the result. This scholarship fund has provided many African American and Latino students with both a bridge to Syracuse and with much-needed support.

It was established through the vision and hard work of many of our alumni, including trustee Deryck Palmer and Dave Bing, the former Mayor of Detroit. Dave's tireless efforts, in the early days, helped build the foundation.

Once in place, the scholarship fund soared. Over the years, it has more than doubled in size. It has provided nearly \$3 million in scholarship support for outstanding students intent on achieving a degree at Syracuse.

To the graduating seniors that we recognize today:

We are so proud of you. Yet I would ask you to look around the room. Think of all the women and men at Syracuse University who anticipated your brilliance even before you were born. They witnessed difficult times. They understood the power of education. Decades ago, they began the work to make sure these scholarships would be here for you tonight.

That selfless vision is a defining feature of our Syracuse family. As they did for you, we hope you will someday do for another generation.

You are gifted. You will build great careers in public service. Medicine. The law. Engineering. Music. Education. Criminal Justice. The arts. The world itself will open its doors to you.

All I ask is that you never forget your days at Syracuse. Please remember these wonderful men and women around you. Their greatest dream is only to see you succeed.

Remember the faith of your families, your teachers, of all those who love you

And pass it on.

There is a special feeling in this room. Everything that makes our university a place of hope is present here. Ruth and I are honored to be a part of it.

As for our scholarship winners We can't wait to see what you do next.
Thank you.

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