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Chancellor's Award for Public Engagement

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SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on April 19, 2016

Location: Joyce Hergenhan Auditorium

Remarks: Chancellor's Award for Public Engagement

The Chancellor was introduced by Jose Godinez, a senior in the Martin J. Whitman School of Management and the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.

Thank you, Jose.

Thank you for being here as we celebrate the importance of engagement and public scholarship by our students.

I want to first recognize and thank our Community Partner this year, ProLiteracy.

I also want to thank

- staff of the Mary Ann Shaw Center for Public Service and Engagement
- Dean Masingila, for MC'ing the event
- the Chancellor's Office Staff, for organizing this event
- and the Awards Selection Committee members

Finally, I want to thank the thousands of students across our campus who engage in some way in community engagement and public scholarship opportunities.

Syracuse University is on the leading edge of Community engagement. We continue to see the tremendous value and benefit, for both our students and our community.

The Mary Ann Shaw Center for Public and Community Service was developed more than two decades ago. Since then community engagement at Syracuse University has evolved dramatically. Today, community engagement opportunities are deeply embedded in curricula across the University.

We have over 10,000 students engaged in and working with community through academic courses, practica, projects and initiatives.

The University provides approximately 500,000 hours of community engagement each year.

The breadth of contributions is amazing. Students raise money through Greek societies, academic honors programs, and co-curricular programs. These groups raise funds ranging from \$50 to as much as \$150,000. They make blankets for the homeless and provide nutrition education with creative food preparation. They engage students in K-12 and assist with grant writing. They work around the corner and across the globe spreading both their time and their energy.

I am very proud of the diverse community work and public scholarship that Syracuse University students are engaged in. Students and faculty are constantly collaborating on projects that address local and global issues. This work highlights both the need and the impact of public engagement.

Our students are doing truly amazing community service. As part of being at a great, thriving, engaged, and diverse international research university. In order to continue becoming an even greater University, we must create meaningful and intentional community engagement and public scholarship.

It is critical, though, that we ensure that this work is aligned with our academic mission as a University. It should fit with our overall Academic Strategic Plan and the academic work that takes place in our schools and colleges.

Our students can only benefit from community experiences that are designed to enhance and complement their classroom experiences. Our task is to design those experiences in such a way that is beneficial to everyone and is true to our mission and goals.

Syracuse University is committed to continued partnerships with organizations in our community, such as ProLiteracy. Through these important relationships, we will continue to develop learning experiences for our students. And we will address issues of great importance and need, both here and around the globe.

We all live and work here. Community engagement and public scholarship is crucial to making Syracuse—the community and the University—the best place it can be.

Thank you.

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