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Undergraduate Research Center Dedication

Kent Syverud
Syracuse University

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Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on Thursday, March 21, 2019

Location: Bird Library

Remarks: Undergraduate Research Center Dedication

The Chancellor was introduced by Professor, Cathryn Newton

Thank you Cathryn. What a joyous day. So many of our students, faculty, and staff come together to support the Syracuse University Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Engagement and the world-class learning and scholarship SOURCE promotes.

Thanks to all who worked so hard to make today possible, especially:

- Cathryn Newton
- Kate Hanson and Jolynn Parker,
- Jamie Winders
- John Liu
- President Ghufran Salih and Vice President Kyle Rosenblum of the Student Association

Syracuse University has long had a good culture of undergraduate research and creative inquiry. This culture has existed in “pockets” throughout the university. Until now, it typically has not been publicized, recorded, assessed, and supported as effectively as it could be. But it will be now and in the future. I care deeply about the fledgling program we formally launch today.

Today we are celebrating the Syracuse Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Engagement, it provides a central location where a culture of undergraduate research excellence will thrive.

This office will broadly define creative inquiry, so students outside of STEM fields, across disciplines, can take part. The SOURCE fosters a culture of innovation and discovery for undergraduates in every major. This office will prepare undergraduate researchers for presenting and publishing their work beyond the studio or lab. The SOURCE will assist students in laying out a personalized path to success.

Undergraduate participants will progress through initial training in research or other creative skills, to design the structure of their projects, and culminating in original contributions.

The SOURCE will bring more visibility to undergraduates and their mentors engaged in innovative work. This office will offer programming designed to help students understand disciplinary methodologies and norms, and to assist students in developing research and communications skills so that their findings reach broader audiences. In addition, the SOURCE will demonstrate the crucial role of failure, resilience, and redesign in research and creative inquiry. This office challenges our students to discover and expand the range of their abilities.

We have so much great momentum to build on now. Syracuse University is one of the 120 top-tier Carnegie 1 research institutions in the country. Our undergraduates need to benefit from and experience this level of research expertise. This office will help make this happen.

I look forward to how the SOURCE will shape the next generation of great student researchers, mentors and leaders. The SOURCE is another way we are prioritizing the student experience, and setting up our students for success post-graduation.

Thank you for all being here today, and for being Orange.

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