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Orange Circle Awards

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Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on March 28, 2019

Location: Schine Student Center

Remarks: Orange Circle Awards

The Chancellor was introduced by seniors Ryan Patel and Kyra Meister.

Thank you Ryan and Kyra. I am so happy that seniors like you have embraced this week's message and are sharing the importance of life-long philanthropy. The enduring connection forms between students and Syracuse University is very special, thank you for sharing your stories.

I would like to thank the Office of Alumni Engagement, and all our students who participated in this week's activities and the Forever Orange Student Alumni Council.

I'd also like to acknowledge Steve and Deborah Barnes. They contributed ideas about community service projects and we are proud to make them a reality.

Tonight, we welcome our special guests Steven and Beth Ballentine. Steve Ballentine founded Ballentine Capital Management In-company and has served as the president and CEO since 1989. Ballentine Capital specializes in managing portfolios and hedge funds. Steve graduated from Syracuse University in 1983 with a BS degree in finance from the Whitman School of Management. He is married to fellow alumna Beth Ballentine, who earned her degree from Newhouse. Beth is a freelance writer and novelist specializing in political commentary.

I'd like for Steven and Beth to now stand and be recognized.

As students like Steven and Beth arrive at Syracuse University, they become members of our Orange family. Like any long lasting relationship, the connection evolves over time. Today's students are tomorrow's alumni. I hope that Forever Orange week has made you feel that graduation is not goodbye. It is important to stay involved with Syracuse University because it is a place where you will always feel at home and have a connection.

Our students and alumni empower this institution to make a positive impact. Tonight's Orange Circle Awards acknowledge those who are our finest examples of philanthropy in action. This year's recipients have supported caregivers of children with disabilities and terminal illnesses, they have helped employ homeless people, they have assisted in recovery from the devastating impacts of Hurricanes and they have mentored young people.

No matter how our students and alumni have given back, it is an important contribution. Channeling one's passions and talents in service to others has been an Orange value since the founding of this institution almost 150 years ago. When our students graduate, that's only the next step. The altruistic spirit that exists on this campus is carried forward by our students and alumni, continuing to give back in any way they can.

Our graduating seniors will soon be part of a community of Syracuse University alumni, over 250 thousand men and women in cities, states and countries around the world. They are joining a global community of people who graduated from Syracuse University, inspired to engage with others, identify needs, and make a difference. I encourage all students and alumni to continue to build on this legacy.

To tonight's award winners: Congratulations. I'm pleased to announce the recipients here today are also being awarded a monetary grant. Your wonderful work is a source of pride to all of us at Syracuse University. Thank you for being examples of how a Syracuse University education can be a force for good in our communities.

Congratulations, and thank you for being Orange.

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