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Donald Newhouse Gift Announcement

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Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud
Delivered on Monday, January 13, 2020
Location: Hergenhan Auditorium
Remarks: Donald Newhouse Gift Announcement

Good morning. Welcome to Syracuse University and the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. Today is a great day for Syracuse University. Not just because this is the first day of class in 2020. But also because today we are here with Donald E. Newhouse – one of our most illustrious alumni and friends. Also with us today is Kathy Walters, chair of the Syracuse University Board of Trustees. In this room – among the faculty and leadership of the Newhouse School and the University, Donald Newhouse needs very little introduction. As Chancellor of Syracuse University it has been my distinct privilege to get an insider’s view of the deep ties between the Newhouse family and the school that bears their name. Today, we are here for a very special announcement. Please join me in giving a warm welcome to Mr. Donald Newhouse.

Donald, let me address you directly. The Newhouse Family Foundation’s historic commitment to people and programs is a game changer for Syracuse University and the Newhouse School. It is also a tremendous expression of your belief in the faculty and staff in this room, whose thirst for innovation and passionate commitment to our students brings your father’s dream to life.

Forever Orange: the Campaign for Syracuse University launched this fall because Syracuse University has big dreams and aspirations. We are raising \$1.5 billion dollars not for the sake of the number itself, but for what every dollar of private support can do for student learning and the student experience, faculty recruitment and retention, innovation, research and academic excellence at this university. Today’s

commitment is a huge boost toward a transformational future and toward making our Orange dreams into reality.

Your father chose Syracuse University to establish the finest journalism school in the world with a firsthand understanding of the spirit that drives this institution to lead, not follow; to invent, not imitate; and to go beyond what is expected to blaze new trails. Today's commitment is a public endorsement of what we have accomplished and all that we will achieve in the future. By sharing your intent to provide one of the largest gifts to a school of communications – the world will be on notice that Syracuse University is determined to lead.

Thank you, Donald for your ongoing belief in this spirit and your faith in Syracuse University and the dedicated people who make up the Newhouse School. We are honored and grateful.

As we stand here in the Newhouse III building, it is important that everyone here is aware that the specific use of the pledge we are announcing today will be for people and programs. Donald and the Newhouse Family Foundation understand that this is where their support will have the most impact. Their intention is that, in the midst of a national search for a permanent dean, that the individual we select will be instrumental in shaping the future direction of the school – along with faculty, staff and students and alumni. As everyone in this room understands, we are seeking a leader who will bring out the best in everyone here to face the rapid transformation of the communication field. This commitment provides us with the confidence that we will appoint a world-class leader. The trust that the Newhouse Family Foundation has in this process and the flexibility that they are providing to the University is simultaneously truly unusual in philanthropy and highly valuable.

I know that Dean Lorraine Branham is smiling down on her school from heaven right now. I can almost hear her saying, it's now time for her school to rise and shine. Losing Dean Branham was difficult for the

entire Syracuse University family. I am so grateful to Amy Falkner for leading our school in this challenging time. Amy's deep understanding of the Newhouse School culture and goals has providing a steady guiding hand.

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