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### Introduction - State of the County Address

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*Syracuse University*

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# Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on March 31 2021

Location: Tan Auditorium, NVRC

Remarks: Introduction, State of the County Address

Good evening, I'm Kent Syverud, Chancellor of Syracuse University. It is my pleasure to welcome Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon to our campus for the State of the County Address. We are here in the K.G. Tan Auditorium in the Dan and Gayle D'Aniello Building on the Syracuse University campus. This impressive and fully-accessible facility is home to our National Veteran's Resource Center. The NVRC serves veterans and military-connected students and connects us with veterans in our community, our region and across the United States.

It is also home to our Office of Veterans and Military Affairs, our ROTC programs and the Institute for Veteran's and Military Families. The IVMF has served more than 150,000 individuals with programs that empower transitioning service members and veterans with no-cost career, vocational and entrepreneurship training.

I would be remiss this evening if I did not give thanks. I chair the Atlantic Coast Conference and for the last 18 months I have been talking with university leaders all over this country. I am painfully aware that, in most university towns in our country, the response to covid-19 has put town and gown at odds, has caused government leaders and college leaders and business leaders to bicker and fight, has left scars on relationships that will take a long time to heal.

That has not happened here, in Syracuse and Onondaga County. It has been amazing to watch here as so many leaders in our community came together, worked together, and helped each other. I am deeply grateful to the leaders, including so many of you in this room, who made this happen. Our county officials; our state officials including Executive Director Matt Driscoll; our Congressman John Katko (SU) and senators; our college and university leaders; our mayor Ben Walsh (SU grad); our school superintendents, our community and business leaders. Syracuse

University is proud to have been your partners through this pandemic. You have truly been heroic. I particularly call out and thank, Ryan McMahon, and his entire team for their tremendous leadership this past year.

The pandemic has called upon all of us to work together under very difficult and dynamic circumstances. Ryan McMahon has been an extraordinary leader for all of us in this county, including Syracuse University. Early on, his team invited members of the Syracuse University emergency management team to be part of the County Operations Center. That collaboration has been in effect over the entire year and played a big part in our ability to welcome students back to this campus. Ann Rooney, Deputy County Executive for Human Services, and Dr. Indu Gupta, Commissioner of Health, and their teams have been crucial partners through all of the challenges we have faced over the past year. Finally, Ryan McMahon has supported all of our public health efforts and messaging and has been crucial to our efforts to keep our student-athletes in competition and to return fans to the stadium safely. I speak for the entire Syracuse University community when I tell you Ryan how much we appreciate this highly effective partnership with Onondaga County.

I think we all have become better partners as we have dealt with this pandemic. Now, we can build on that. As one of the county's largest employers, Syracuse University has a vital interest in Syracuse City and Onondaga County's efforts to combat poverty, build infrastructure and foster economic development. Across the nation, we see the benefits when research universities partner with their communities for the greater good. Historically, this has been true of Syracuse and Onondaga County. I am committed to continuing and deepening our partnerships in Syracuse and across the region for the benefit of all of our citizens.

Thank you, and once again, welcome.

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