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Scholar Recognition Ceremony

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Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on May 19, 2021

Location: NVRC, Grand Hall

Remarks: Syracuse University Scholar Recognition Ceremony

The Chancellor was introduced by Professor Jodi Upton, Knight Chair in Data and Explanatory Journalism

Thank you, Professor Upton. And thank you for your service as the chair of the 2021 University Scholars selection committee. I will begin by thanking the entire committee, as well as:

- Ramesh Raina, Interim Vice President for Research;
- Associate Provost Chris Johnson;
- JoLynn Parker and Melissa Welshans from the Center for Fellowship and Scholarship Advising;
- All of the scholar mentors present with us today.

I want to offer a special welcome to our University Scholars' families and friends, who are watching today on Zoom. While I wish we could be together in person, I am pleased that you are able to watch as we honor these outstanding students.

Each year, I have the honor and privilege of recognizing our University Scholars. This is the highest honor that any undergraduate student can earn at Syracuse University. You have been chosen from among more than 3,400 members of your class who will be graduating this coming weekend.

You are a diverse group, in background, disciplines, views, experiences and goals. Your fields of study reflect the broad and dynamic nature of a Syracuse education. Your areas of study include the sciences, analytics and business, journalism and policy studies, engineering and information sciences. This is a vibrant group that represents the best of Syracuse University.

Your post-graduation plans are varied. Some of you will go on to masters and PhD programs in your chosen fields. Others will be enrolling in medical or dental school. And some of you will begin your careers following commencement.

What you have in common is that you are soon to be Syracuse University graduates. Each of you made an impact while you were here. Each of you has a bright future ahead of you.

You have another important quality in common. During the most difficult academic year that anyone can remember, you were determined and resilient. You kept working toward your goals and dreams regardless of the obstacles.

As you graduate, you'll be hearing a lot of advice from all directions. One of my jobs as chancellor is to welcome incoming students and to see you off as you graduate. In 1871, Chancellor Erastus Haven presented a charge to incoming students. When you arrived at Syracuse University and attended convocation as a first-year student, I shared his words with you: "I charge you to embrace your part in a great University."

Clearly, you have done just that.

The other part of Chancellor Haven's charge, which you heard at your first-year convocation, is this: "At Syracuse University we assign you to a definite beginning, but we direct you to no one end. Somewhere along the way, at Syracuse University, you will become the teachers, and the teachers will learn from you."

During your time here, we have not presumed how to tell you how to reach your goals. You have charted your own course. We have supported and nurtured you as you did so. Keep going.

And as you begin the next phase of your life, please take a moment to thank those people who have guided and supported you along the way. I know that they are very proud of each of you. Please stay connected to Syracuse University. Let your mentors and your teachers know how you are doing and what you are doing. You will be missed. But I can't wait to see what you do next.

Congratulations and thank you.

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