

# SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on April 21, 2014

Location: Goldstein Faculty Center

Remarks: Chancellor's Remarks at 2014 Meredith Awards Teaching Recognition Event

*The Chancellor was introduced by Kal Austin,  
Senior Vice President, Human Capital Development.*

Thank you, Kal. Good afternoon, everyone.

Let me just start off by thanking the folks who helped organize and coordinate today's event, as well as those who reviewed portfolios to select today's honorees. They include:

Members of the Teaching Recognition Award Selection Committee

- Sharon Hollenbeck (Newhouse)
- Helen Doerr (Mathematics and Teaching & Leadership)
- Norman Kutcher (Maxwell/History)

Members of the Meredith Professors Selection Committee

- Eric Lui (Civil & Environmental Engineering)
- Shobha Bhatia (Civil & Environmental Engineering)
- Burak Kazaz (Management)
- Student: Sinan Chu (Graduate Student in the Maxwell School)

Dean Laura Steinberg of the Engineering School

Bron Adam, the director of Faculty Development

And the Staff of the Faculty Center (under the direction of Karen Piedmont) who are responsible for facility and refreshment presentation.

Thank you also to all those who nominated our awardees:

- Dean Liz Liddy (iSchool)
- Dennis Gillen (Management)
- Roy Gutterman, Dean Emeritus David Rubin
- Azra Hromadzic, Robert Rubinstein
- Gladys McCormick, Carol Faulkner
- Rachel Razza, Robert Moreno
- Sascha Scott, Wayne Franits
- Arthur Thomas, Barbara Kwasnik
- John Torrens, Alex McKelvie

Finally, thanks to all of you here—especially families, colleagues, and students—for joining in this celebration of faculty excellence.

The awards presented this afternoon were established for four overarching purposes:

- recognize and reward teaching excellence
- encourage constant improvement
- emphasize the great importance the University places on teaching
- and build on our commitment to being a place where teaching and learning thrive.

In doing all this, these awards also honor our profession itself. I say “our” because even though I am Chancellor, I am also—and always will be—a teacher. I could never bear to leave a job that energized and excited me and brought me so much joy as teaching.

As all of today’s honorees already know, really good teaching is really hard. It involves continual learning and staying up-to-date with emerging knowledge in your field. It involves getting to know your students and where they’re coming from. Caring about them in the classroom and paying attention to them outside the classroom. It is time consuming and has to be rationed along with our own pursuit of knowledge through research.

Really good teaching also is joyful and full of passion. I never saw great teaching where the person didn’t sincerely believe that what he or she was teaching was

the most important thing in the world and that everybody in that classroom just has to understand it and want to know it.

Today's honorees were nominated by their peers, recommended by their students, and selected by the awards committee because they excel at all of that.

I think it is great that these awards also acknowledge the importance of mentoring one another and striving to help our peers—and ourselves—be the best we can be. Great teachers almost always are informed by great mentors who challenge us, inspire us, and motivate us. I know that is true in my own life, and I am sure it is true for many or most of you here.

These awards also acknowledge that great teachers never stop working to be even better. As teachers, we are all lifelong learners. Learning new ideas, pursuing our own research, and interacting with new people is what keeps us excited about our work and what keeps us young.

It is what captivates our students and inspires them to work hard and become lifelong learners themselves. It goes to the heart of everything we do here at Syracuse, and it is what makes this University a great place to learn and to teach.

I had the great pleasure of connecting with the current group of Meredith Professors last fall, before I officially arrived here. Their dedication to teaching, to their students, and to the University affirmed the great things going on at Syracuse and made me even more eager to work with you.

Thanks to each one of our honorees—including those Meredith Professors concluding their terms—for being a part of this important work and for doing it so well.

Congratulations!

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