

# SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on April 29, 2014

Location: Fisher Center, New York City

Remarks: Chancellor's Remarks at the 2014 Fisher Center Dedication

*The Chancellor was introduced by Richard Thompson,  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees.*

Thank you, Dick. I am so pleased to be here with all of you this evening in this great space. First let me thank the entire team from the Lubin House who had a hand this past year in getting us to this day and in organizing this event, including:

- Ruth Kaplan, Syracuse University's vice president for external affairs, New York
- Maureen Ferry, senior director for programs and events at the Lubin House
- Jeff Sperber who led our fund-raising efforts
- Scott McDowell, manager for media relations and special events
- and Jane Henn, who returned from retirement to assist in the day-to-day operations here this semester.

Of course, this event would not be possible if not for the people whose generous support helped make this ambitious vision a reality. A tremendous thank-you to:

- Winston Fisher, whose lead gift jumpstarted the construction of the Fisher Center
- James Kuhn, who also chaired the Trustee Facilities Committee and helped identify this space
- The Eggers Charitable Foundation, and William and Richard Eggers, sons of former Syracuse Chancellor Melvin Eggers and his wife, Mildred
- Jonathan Resnick, who also helped supervise construction of this space
- and to Mike Lefkowitz and the Lefkowitz/Mendik family

Thanks also to our architect Larry Mufson and his team for their incredible design work and to Hal Fetner, who provided weekly guidance to our renovation.

I would also like to thank members of the team that spearheaded the effort from Syracuse:

- Our academic partners who defined the program needs that would support their academic agendas: Dean Michael Speaks, Dean Ann Clarke, and Architecture Professor Randall Korman.
- Chuck Merrihew, interim vice president for advancement and external affairs, who really was the driving force behind this project. Chuck kept all the moving pieces and partners working together and somehow managed to “deliver” this beautiful space in near record time.
- and our own Campus Planning, Design and Construction office—specifically Eric Beattie and Chuck Bucci.

It is hard to think of a better or more fitting place for Syracuse University to expand its academic presence than here in New York City, in the heart of midtown Manhattan. More than 55,000 alumni live in the New York metropolitan area, and Syracuse has had a presence here since the 1950s:

First, operating from a one-room office in the Biltmore Hotel. And, since 1965, from Lubin House .

The Fisher Center builds on that presence and takes our programming capabilities to a whole new level.

Last June, many of you gathered in this exact space to celebrate the signing of the lease and to envision the great potential it represented. You had to use your imaginations because the space itself stood gutted and empty.

Today, less than a year later, the center completed its first full semester as the instructional home for students in the Tepper Semester drama program and the Syracuse Architecture New York City program.

I want to recognize Angie Co, assistant professor from the School of Architecture, and Lisa Nicholas, director of the Tepper Center, who both

oversaw their respective programs here this semester and the amazing experience their students enjoyed.

This flagship center not only provides additional space for those and other very popular, highly competitive programs. It also gives us the capacity to create *new* programs across even more disciplines for many more students.

In the classrooms here, our teachers have the same resources and capabilities as they would on campus. But they also have one of the world's greatest cities at their disposal, in which to teach students about business, media, education and social work, and just about any other field you can imagine.

The Newhouse School, in fact, already has plans to launch a full-semester program for journalism students here this fall. Other programs, for instance one through the Whitman School of Management supported by a gift from Jimmy Kuhn, are also anticipated or in the works.

These types of academic immersion programs are distinctive, and they are uniquely Syracuse. They draw on our incredible network of successful alumni as well as industry professionals like actress/singer Daisy Prince to serve as instructors, mentors, and internship hosts.

They enhance our brand and visibility in one of the most dynamic markets in the world. They make us more competitive and, most importantly, they provide fantastic learning and networking experiences that will give our students a leg up in getting a job after graduation.

You have all been a part of this effort, and you have made it a great success. I hope you will remain involved in as many ways as you can so we can continue to generate distinctive, and distinctively rich, student learning experiences for years to come.

You are all part of what makes Syracuse such a great University. Thank you again for making this project, and the wonderful opportunities it generates, possible. We could not have done this without you.

# # # #