

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on April 19, 2016

Location: Bird Library

Remarks: Chancellor's Remarks at Grand Opening of the Blackstone Launchpad

*The Chancellor was introduced by David Seaman,
University Librarian and Dean of the University Libraries.*

Thank you, David. Welcome, everyone.

I would like to thank the people who worked so hard to make this event possible, especially:

- Members of the Syracuse University Blackstone LaunchPad Stewardship Committee
- Members of the University's student entrepreneurship clubs and teams for helping to "fast-track" the opening of this program
- The entire Libraries team, and especially Dean of Libraries David Seaman, for his leadership on this project
- And Campus Catering for its usual great service

And I would like to give a very special thank-you to the members of the Blackstone Charitable Foundation, who really made this program possible.

Thanks to those Blackstone team members who were able to be with us today:

- Erik Lisher, managing director in Blackstone's Investor Relationship and Business Development Group, and member of the foundation's Board of Directors
- And Alisha Slye, global director for Blackstone LaunchPad, who worked to launch the project here

Syracuse University is honored, and extremely fortunate, to have been selected by Blackstone for this significant grant.

We have a proud tradition of entrepreneurial spirit and of teaching students to be creators and innovators.

Innovation is a pillar of our present and future—and a key theme of our Academic Strategic Plan. Today more than ever, innovation and entrepreneurship drive economic growth and opportunity.

The Blackstone LaunchPad is a campus-based entrepreneurial engine, accessible by more than 500,000 students around the world. It offers a tremendous opportunity for our students, faculty and staff. It will allow us to:

- Coordinate and align our entrepreneurial efforts.
- Develop opportunities for our students to pursue the next “big ideas.”
- Connect our students with mentors and expert advisors.
- Expand the entrepreneurial network in Central New York and beyond.
- And partner with like-minded students, faculty, alumni, and staff to share ideas and best practices.

It is most appropriate that the LaunchPad be located here at Bird Library—a space dedicated to research, learning, and innovation, regardless of major.

It is the cross-disciplinary center of the University and a place that fosters collaboration and discovery.

The Blackstone LaunchPad makes the University’s strong innovations even more robust. I know our students, faculty, staff, and alumni will put it to good use. And I look forward to seeing the exciting results.

Thank you.

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