

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on April 2, 2014

Location: Sheraton University Hotel

Remarks: Chancellor's Remarks at the 2014 Orange Circle Awards

*The Chancellor was introduced by Dylan Lustig,
Student Association President and Class of 2014.*

Thank you, Dylan. And a special thanks to you, to Hannah, and to all the members of the Student Philanthropy team as well as the Class Act Committee, for your leadership, hard work, and commitment to seeding a spirit of philanthropy among your peers.

A tremendous thank-you also to our wonderful featured speaker whom you just heard from, Andrew Lunetta. Andrew, your compassion and service toward those struggling with homelessness and hardship reveal an incredibly generous spirit and a firm belief in the power of individuals to make a difference in the lives of others. You and others like you are why I am so grateful to be here at Syracuse University.

I would also like to thank those other individuals who helped organize this event:

- Marlene O'Shea of the Office of Special Events
- Carol Prendergast, Karen Trendell, and Julie Palmer from the Office of Donor Relations
- Matt Manfra, Sam Edelstein, and Kristen Duggleby from the Office of Alumni Engagement
- And Veronica Hotaling, Sue Stiles, and Jenny Merante from the Office of Marketing & Communications

It is a pleasure to be here among so many of the people who play such crucial roles in advancing the work and mission of this great University. I would especially like to acknowledge:

- Laurie Taishoff, president of the Syracuse University Alumni Association and a member of SU's Board of Trustees
- Members of the Board of Trustees, Life Trustees Ann Stevenson and Charlie Beach,
- And while they were unable to join us tonight, we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge and thank Howard and Louise Phanstiel, whose generous support funded the Phanstiel Scholars and lecture program.

It takes many great individuals to make a great university—

Students who come here with a passion for learning and for discovering how they can put what they learn to work in the world. Faculty dedicated to teaching excellence, vigorous scholarship, and research on campus and around the globe. Administrators and staff, who keep every aspect of our campus life running smoothly. And an amazing network of alumni and community friends and supporters who work tirelessly and give generously to perpetuate and expand SU's legacy of opportunity and excellence.

We are blessed with wonderful people on every front, and when we all work together, we are capable of great things.

Last week we officially celebrated Syracuse University's 144th birthday—144 years of achieving great things together. This institution is where it is today because of generations of people, like yourselves, who gave generously of their time, their talents, and their treasures in service to a cause larger than themselves. People who believed and invested in the power of a great education to change lives for the better.

Here at Syracuse, philanthropy helps to ensure we have the resources to support talented students who have financial need. Our donors, like Howie and Louise and so many of you here in this room, help make their dream of coming to Syracuse University a reality.

Our donors enable us to attract and support a top-notch faculty and ensure they have the resources and facilities needed to pursue innovative scholarship and research.

Philanthropy enhances our standing among our peer institutions and makes us more attractive to students. But philanthropy is about more than dollars and cents. It is also about donating time as alumni leaders to enhance SU's presence and network of support across the nation and around the world.

It is about students, like Dylan, Hannah, and Andrew; our Phanstiel Scholars, many of whom are with us tonight; and other student leaders, who are doing good work on campus, in the community, and beyond. We are so thankful for both their youthful energy and their maturity of vision.

It is about each one of us doing what we can, in every way we can, to ensure that Syracuse University is a place where excellence thrives—a place where our students achieve their full potential and leave here prepared to do great things.

Our Orange Circle Award winners whom we will recognize shortly on this stage have done just that. I am so pleased to have this opportunity to thank each one of you—Thomas Blumer, members of the student theater troupe e5m, which stands for Every Five Minutes, Christopher Meek, and, posthumously, Mary Gilmore Smith, a treasured friend to SU whom I will never have the good fortune to meet but who I know is with us in spirit this evening.

On behalf of the entire University, thank you all for consistently demonstrating the power of philanthropy to support the needs of our campus, our communities, and the world.

Finally, thank you to everyone here this evening for your hard work and ongoing dedication to Syracuse University and to our students. You are a very big part of what makes this such a special place, and we are deeply grateful to you.

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