

Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud
Delivered on April 25, 2017
Location: Hendrick's Chapel
Remarks: One University Award Ceremony

*Chancellor Syverud was introduced by Vice Chancellor and Provost Dr.
Michele Wheatly*

Thank you, Provost Wheatly, and welcome all to today's awards ceremony.

For fifty years, Syracuse University has awarded The Chancellor's medal to outstanding citizens. For more than 40 years, the University has awarded the Chancellor's Citations to outstanding teachers, scholars, and supporters of the mission of Syracuse University.

For twenty-five years, Syracuse University has conferred the Chancellor's award for public engagement and scholarship.

Over the years, we have conferred these honors in many places - to composer Aaron Copland in Lubin House in New York; to Chancellor William Tolley at the Hotel Syracuse; to Joseph Biden in Washington D.C., and to many dedicated Syracuse faculty, staff, and alumni at Drumlins and at the Sheraton Hotel.

There have been long gaps at times in these ceremonies. For more than decade at the end of the last century, no Chancellor's Medal was conferred. The last Chancellor's citations were conferred more than five years ago.

It is time to rededicate these honors, especially in light of their golden and silver anniversaries. Today we celebrate The Chancellor's Medal, the Chancellor's Citations, and the Chancellor's Awards for Public Engagement.

We rededicate them by conferring these awards once again, in a new ceremony occurring in the heart and soul of our campus, Hendricks Chapel.

It is so appropriate that we confer these awards, not in a country club or in a hotel, but in Hendricks Chapel.

It is appropriate because, just as these honors are being rededicated, so is this Chapel, which is a living institution that is so important to this university and to its future. We have just announced the appointment of a new dean of Hendricks Chapel, Brian Konkol, who will bring energy and inspiration and leadership and a great calling to this community. That successful search followed the first thorough review of the Chapel in more than thirty years. As a result of that review and the appointment of our new dean, I believe we can look forward to a revival of student and University life in this space and in the programs and ministries this Chapel sponsors.

We can also look forward to this sacred space, at the center of our campus, being revived and used even more to enhance our student, faculty, and staff experience. This summer, the Hendricks Chapel front steps will be restored. They are the site of so much history on this campus, and they need a facelift. I also have hopes, as Chancellor, of achieving a miracle in Hendricks Chapel that has not yet occurred since this place was built in 1930. I hope and predict that before the start of Fall Semester 2018, this chapel will be air conditioned. That will make this space so much more welcoming, for events from Take Back the Night to A Cappella After Hours to Training the Good Squad and Orientation Leaders to religious services of all faiths.

In addition to the awards that bear the Chancellor's title, we today confer many other awards and recognize many great citizens of this university community. Our student scholar-athletes, our staff members who have served for 50 years, our extraordinary teachers, our more than 100 year old leader in literacy Ruth Colvin, our incomparable Charles Willie, who twice brought Martin Luther King Jr. to this campus. We celebrate our Marshals, our University Scholars,

our Remembrance and Lockerbie Scholars, and this year's emeritus faculty members who together have devoted almost 500 years of teaching and research and service at Syracuse.

As Chancellor, I am humbled to be in the presence, in this sacred space, of so many people who have done so much to bring honor and goodness to this campus and this world. On behalf of your University, I extend deepest thanks for all you have done and all you will do. Today this Chapel is truly a blessed place because you are here.

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