

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on October 29, 2021

Location: NVRC, K.G. Tan Auditorium

Remarks: Alumni Awards Celebration

*The Chancellor was introduced by College Football Hall of Fame Inductee and Syracuse University Class of 1987 Alumni, Don McPherson.*

Thank you, Don. It’s great to have you back on campus. It’s great to have you all on campus for Orange Central. Virtual events were a great way to stay engaged during the worst of the pandemic, but there’s nothing like the energy that comes from bringing folks together to celebrate.

And, tonight we will celebrate, indeed. Our alumni award recipients are truly worthy. They have all given extraordinary gifts to Syracuse University through engagement, leadership and philanthropy. They represent every generation of the Orange Nation. We bring them together tonight to recognize their extraordinary contributions to Syracuse University, to their professions and to society as a whole.

Our Generation Orange award recipients provide tremendous examples of leaders who have graduated in the last ten years.. This award recognizes young alumni who have made an impact on campus and in their communities. **Katie Hoole, Nicole Osborne, Ivan Robles and Leo Wong** are leading in their professions, their communities and among their fellow Orange alumni.

The Military-Veteran Alumni Award is presented annually. The recipients are alumni who have distinguished themselves through exceptional meritorious service and achievement while serving in the United States military and/or in their post-service careers in the private, business, government, or philanthropic sectors.

**Col. Eileen Collins**, is just the second recipient of this award. She has exhibited leadership as a test pilot, instructor, astronaut and as a role model for women.

The Melvin A. Eggers Senior Alumni Award is presented to alumni whose leadership and service to society is linked with many years of loyalty and service to Syracuse. **Russell King**’s leadership in architecture and business have left an indelible legacy on our campus, in our community and beyond.

Tonight, we will also present Syracuse University’s highest alumni honor, the George Arents Award. Tonight’s recipients are leaders in business and philanthropy, creative endeavors, and diversity and inclusion. This year, the Arents Awards go to:

* **Dan Mezzalingua**, a tremendous business leader who serves his community and his alma mater as an advisor and philanthropist;
* **Keith Cartwright**, founder, president and chief creative officer of Cartwright and co-founder of the SATURDAY MORNING creative collective;
* **Maria D. Meléndez**, Chief Diversity Officer for the international law firm of Sidley Austin; and
* **Jim Morris**, the President of Pixar Animation Studios.

Each of tonight’s recipients is a source of pride for Syracuse University. Each of you have shown the world what Orange can do. We are so proud of you.

Thank you, and Go Orange.

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