

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on November 3, 2021

Location: NVRC, K.G. Tan Auditorium

Remarks: IVMF Celebration

*The Chancellor was introduced by Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Innovation, Mike Haynie.*

Thank you, Vice Chancellor Haynie. Administrator Guzman, thank you for your remarks, and for your partnership. It is a pleasure to welcome you to our campus and to this truly spectacular facility.

All of us at Syracuse University are grateful for the support of the individuals and organizations who make it possible for us to celebrate today. They include Life Trustee Dan D’Aniello and his wife Gayle. Their $20 million gift made this building possible. Their steadfast and more recent support, including a $30 million gift announced just yesterday, will ensure that the D’Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families will continue to serve generations of veterans and military-connected individuals. (Pause for applause)

There are so many people to thank: Dr. K.G. Tan, for whom this auditorium is named. The State of New York, the Bisignano Family, the Lachowicz Family, the Haydon Family, the Dottle Family and the countless other donors and supporters. Together, you helped make this vision a reality.

Thank you to JPMorgan Chase for your leadership, vision and continued support. We could not do this without you. And thank you to our Corporate, Government & Foundation Partners. They include: the Small Business Administration, New York State, Fiserv, Boeing, Schultz Family Foundation, USAA, Accenture Prudential, Lockheed Martin, the Heinz Endowments, Walmart and many more.

Ten years ago, the IVMF was an idea.

In the beginning, the IVMF had three employees, one founding partner, and one big dream. The very first program out of IVMF was Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans. In the ten years since, the IVMF has served more than 150,000 service members, veterans and families. In the last decade, Syracuse University has been a place where academic research, education and outreach come together to benefit those who have served. We have become the best private university in the United States for veterans and military-connected service members and their families.

Along the way, we have found that serving veterans and military families makes Syracuse University better. In becoming the best private university for veterans, we are now a different, more diverse university that has so much more to give to the world.

So, what is next? What is our vision for the next ten years, for IVMF for OVMA, and for Syracuse? I have a realistic suggestion. It will take a lot of work, the support of all of us here tonight and many new supporters.

In 2031, let’s not be the best private university for veterans and military connected service members and their families. Let’s be simply the best university of any kind for those who are serving or have served. Let’s be the best university for vets, period. I think we can do this. If you doubt this, “circumspice” – look around. Look what you have already achieved.

Thank you to all who have enabled a great 10 years for IVMF. I look forward to the amazing decade ahead.

Thank you.

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