



**George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D.**

Nova Southeastern University's Sixth President

Remarks from the 2024 Huizenga Entrepreneur and Business Hall of Fame Awards Dinner  
Sunday, October 27, 2024

Good evening and welcome to Nova Southeastern University and the Rick Case Arena. This year marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary inducting members into the Huizenga Entrepreneur and Business Hall of Fame.

During those years, the University and the Huizenga College have honored more than 100 entrepreneurs and business leaders. Their portraits are displayed for every student, faculty and staff member, as well as thousands of visitors to view in the atrium of the Carl DeSantis Building, the home of the H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business and Entrepreneurship, the only business school or college in the nation with “entrepreneurship” in its name.

Tonight’s honorees, Daniella Ortiz Baeza, Thomas M. McDonald, and John E. Miller, have not only been extremely successful entrepreneurs and business leaders, but have also given back in so many ways - philanthropy, community service, and mentoring others so they too may rise to similar achievements in their own lives.

As I reflect on my time at NSU, especially my years as its president, the most powerful, lingering, and rewarding memory I will take with me is that of watching the thousands of men and women receive their degrees and walk across that NSU stage during commencement season. They walk with great smiles, tremendous pride, and confidence to begin their own journeys of leadership.

The pride and fulfillment I feel during those moments over multiple commencements, each and every year, is unforgettable. It lets me feel that I had some small part in seeing those young men and women fulfill their academic goals and dreams, and I know it’s the most noble thing I have ever done.

I believe our honorees recognize this as well. It shows in the way they acknowledge the people and experiences that have inspired them – and to see all they do to inspire others through their actions, their words, and their engagement to those around them.

Tonight, they honor us by allowing us to honor them. You see, we want our students to hear their stories, which they have agreed to come back and tell.

In addition to their portraits, their video stories will also be retained in our portfolio of insights and reflections from our other great members of the Huizenga Hall of Fame. In this way, our business professors can use them in their classes, and our students may be inspired to be entrepreneurial in their own future plans and aspirations.

In fact, we have some of our students here tonight who would affirm that fact – would the students here tonight please rise.

So, whether you recognize it or not, everyone in this room tonight, in a small or large way, has helped to build NSU's legacy of preparing others for their own journeys of leadership, contribution, and achievement. Let's continue to help others rise to be successful, capable, and caring professionals who can make our world a better and healthier place to be.

Thank you and have a wonderful evening.