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Nova Southeastern University's Sixth President

Remarks from the Center for Collaborative Research

Groundbreaking Ceremony

Thursday, February 13, 2014

Thank you, Miss Patel, please join me in recognizing her and all of NSU's 25,000 students. Thank you all for joining us today to celebrate this major component of Vision 2020 for Nova Southeastern University. On behalf of our Board of Trustees, Mr. Ron Assaf its Chair, I would like to welcome you to this seminal event in the history of NSU. Many of the Trustees are in the audience today, which I would like to recognize.

This is indeed a seminal event and is fitting that we are here today to set the stage for the next 50 years and beyond. Teaching, research, service, and learning are all essential parts of Vision 2020. We have always been recognized as a teaching, service, and learning institution. However, beginning with last year's opening of the nation's Center of Excellence in Coral Reef Ecoscience Research and today's ground breaking for NSU's Center for Collaborative Research, we will be recognized by the accrediting agencies, the academic community, and

the general public as a premier, private, not-for-profit University of quality and distinction in all **four** areas.

NSU is already classified as a research university with “high research activity” by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. But this is just the beginning. In the future, because of what will be performed inside this structure by our students, faculty, and those associated with the university combined and bridged with the research performed by students and faculty in our Oceanographic Center, we will be classified by Carnegie Foundation as a university of the “highest research” – there no higher category.

As in all of our buildings and academic programs, they would not be possible without philanthropic support - past, present and future – individuals, organizations, and foundations that believe in our mission and are making an investment not only in NSU’s future, but in a cause greater than themselves - the future of this community and humanity.

Specifically, I would like to thank two long-time supporters of the research being conducted here at NSU. First, the Royal Dames of Cancer Research, our longest serving axillary group at NSU supporting the Rumbaugh-Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research that will be housed on the sixth floor of this structure. (Representing the Royal Dames is Mrs. Carol Nugent).

Second, I'd like to thank the Emil Buehler Perpetual Trust, which has contributed funding to build out the Emil Buehler Research Center for Engineering, Science and Mathematics that will be housed on the second floor of this building. (Representing the Emil Buehler Perpetual Trust is Mr. George Weaver).

Thirdly, following a long standing relationship between NSU and the United States Geological Survey (USGS), including USGS's current location on NSU's main campus, it is intended that USGS will occupy the entire first floor of the CCR. The USGS and NSU will partner on collaborative inter-disciplinary research involving greater Everglades restoration efforts, hydrology and water resources, and more. Representing USGS is Mr. Scott Padgett, Business Manager, Florida Water Science Center.

Also, thanks to a most generous donation by Centaurus Energy in Houston, Texas, NSU is now home to an IBM supercomputer. Thanks to Centaurus Energy and Dr. Eric Ackerman, Dean of the Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences, this supercomputer which will be housed in our CCR, allows NSU to join an elite group of universities with this type of research computing power.

And since we are the Sharks, we decided to name our supercomputer “Megalodon”, which was the biggest prehistoric shark that ever lived.

This machine along with high tech and biotech incubator areas, massive vivarium and wet laboratories, our world-class team of researchers will be provided with the tools they need to continue to make discoveries that will impact the way we all live. From developing new cancer treatments to studying the effects of microgravity for space-based research, the possibilities are endless.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to thank Dr. Fred Lippman, Chancellor of our Health Professions Division, who inspired me to continue to plan and think of ways to develop one of Florida’s largest high tech and biotech research facilities which would help transform NSU into a real “knowledge based industry” for this county and state. Together, we planned and dreamed of this day coming to fruition.

In a few short years, the buildings across the street will be torn down and in their place; a 21st Century Academical Village will rise. Over three million square feet of a mixed use medical research center, offices, laboratories, classrooms, hotel conference center, residential, and retail uses are planned on that acreage which will physically be incorporated into our campus. This 21st Century Academical Village will be anchored by one of the largest hospital organizations in the country –

HCA. They have agreed to construct a teaching research hospital that will allow the bench side research from the CCR building to be transferred to the bedsides of their research hospital.

In short, the last 50 years have demonstrated a grand and glorious history, but the very best is yet to be.

Now, let's break this ground with our 50th Anniversary Gold Shovels and make way for endless possibilities!