

INSTALLATION
October 23, 2013 at 4:00 p.m.
Aggie Gym

{Thank you items}

Speaker Shannon, Ms. Champagne, Ms. Malcolm,
Dr. Dunn, Mr. Stieb, Chancellor Johnson, and
Chairman Dunning, thank you for your support.

Speaker Shannon – Thank you for the reminder
that age is not a criterion for leadership or
accomplishment. We are proud that you and your
wife Devon are both graduates of Cameron
University.

Jessica Champagne – thank you for representing the 30,000 plus alumni of Cameron, whether from the Cameron State School of Agriculture which had its first classes on November 16, 1909, Cameron State Agricultural College, Cameron College, or Cameron University. Alumni are the measure of our success as an institution and remind us of the far reaching impact of education on the lives of our students.

Lani Malcolm – thank you for the support and for the reminder that for every faculty member in the classroom, there are two other employees supporting our students and the community.

Thank you for the socks. I will wear them with pride.

Dr. Mike Dunn – thank you for the reminder of the role of our faculty. When I was a student and when I first became a teacher, I thought that the interaction between a caring and informed faculty member working with an engaged and prepared student was a kind of magic. I have learned; however, that it is more than magic. Our faculty create that environment every day. They also teach the next generation of teachers to do the same for pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade students. There is art, craft, and science to teaching that we must endeavor to continue to improve.

Kevin Stieb, “Mr. President,” thank you for your comments as well as your reminder that students are the reason we are here. I have enjoyed working with you these past few months and look forward to the ideas and engagement of our students and student government.

Chancellor Johnson – thank you for your examples of leadership as president at SEOSU and now as Chancellor. I value your time and commitment to my growth and development.

Chairman Dunning - thank you for your confidence, support, advice, and encouragement.

Vice President Vanderslice – thank you for shepherding this event and for your work as chief academic officer.

I wish to recognize and thank everyone else in attendance today and I owe thanks to many who are not in attendance as well. I specifically wish to recognize the other members of our governing board, The University of Oklahoma Board of Regents seated {POINT OUT LOCATION}:

Vice Chairman Tom Clark, Regent Jon Stuart, Regent Max Weitzenhoffer, Regent Clay Bennett, Regent Kirk Humphreys, and Regent Leslie Rainbolt-Forbes. I also recognize Vice President Chris Purcell and Vice President and General Counsel Anil Gollahalli as well as my two senior colleagues University of Oklahoma President David Boren and Rogers State University President Larry Rice.

We are also joined by a member of our coordinating board, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, State Regent Toney Stricklin.

Presidents (POINT TO LOCATION) and delegates from other colleges and universities – thank you for your attendance but I thank you most for your work as colleagues to improve educational opportunities in Oklahoma and beyond.

We are also joined by representatives from our Legislature, Fort Sill and the Fires Center of Excellence, the McMahon Foundation, the McCasland Foundation, and business and community leaders from Lawton, Duncan, and the surrounding region. I cannot overstate your value to this institution through the scholarships, internships, and career opportunities that you provide and numerous other contributions. Thank each of you.

Faculty and staff who processed: You look wonderful. I commend you for your tireless work with our students and community. I appreciate the number of emeritus faculty and staff joining us today including the 15th president of Cameron University Don Davis and Provost Emeritus Don Sullivan.

I would also like to introduce you to my family and friends in attendance today. (Point out where they are seated.) I am so pleased that they could join us today. My parents, Dr. Charles McArthur and Dr. Priscilla McArthur have been a constant source of love and encouragement particularly in the area of education. In elementary and junior

high school, I remember watching my mother read and write to finish her dissertation in history while coping patiently with the interruptions of two boys. I am sorry that my brother David was unable to attend today.

John and Kathy Oty: Thank you for your support and the welcome into your family. But most of all, thank you for Karla, my wife of 23 years and counting. As mathematicians, we do a lot of counting in our family!

Karla: Thank you for your patience with me as I continually seek out new challenges. I appreciate your support during long hours of work, late night telephone calls, and early morning discussions about road conditions. I know when I became vice

president that I forever ruined the idea of “snow day” for you. Temple, Regina, Kay, Warren, and Beverly: Thank you so much for making the journey to be here today.

I also owe a special thanks to my colleagues on the Cameron University Executive Council, past and present, for their exceptional dedication and achievements on behalf of our students. I learn from each of them every day and I assure you that the success of this institution is a team effort.

Finally, I wish to offer a special thank you to Jonna Brown, Elizabeth Hall, Josh Lehman, Lani Malcolm and the many others who worked to plan and execute this event today.

{Accept Charge }

Chancellor Johnson, Chairman Dunning, members of the Board of Regents, members of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Cameron University Faculty, Staff, Students, Alumni, and distinguished guests: I accept the charge of office presented today and I commit to you my most sincere efforts to perform at the highest level to merit the trust and faith you have placed in me through this appointment.

I thank each of you for your support of this institution and your commitment to work together to make Cameron University the best institution possible for our community, our current students, and the students yet to enter our classrooms.

As I look at the medallion that you placed around my neck, I see the names of the previous 16 presidents of Cameron University. Many of those names are present as you walk across this beautiful campus - Burch, Conwill, Howell, and Ross serve as reminders of their dedication and service. Other names on campus, including McMahan, McCasland, Sarkeys, Bentley, Burgess, Craig, Graybill, and Shepler, are reminders of the dedication and commitment of area community members and foundations to the success of this institution and its students. The names on the medallion, on our facilities, and in our memories are not a burden.

Rather, they are a reminder that we are not doing this alone but building on the success and groundwork of the many who came before us.

{Remarks}

After a blindingly fast four months of meetings, meals, listening sessions, and other interactions with our campus and community members, I can attest to the consistency of the message that clearly affirms to me our institutional mission and core values. Why we are here, who we are here to serve, and the values we espouse remain appropriate and applicable and will continue to serve as our beacon to light the way forward through Campus Master Plan 2025 for our

facilities and Strategic Plan 2018 for the entire array of campus activities.

As an institution, we value and will continue to value; {PAUSE}

as president, I value and will continue to value:

- Student learning as our top priority
- Excellence in teaching, scholarship, service, and mentoring as evidenced by our investment in people
- Leadership in our community and region that emphasizes economic development, partnerships, cultural and social development

- Shared governance built upon teamwork, effective communication, and participation by all constituencies
- Access to and tolerance for diverse ideas, concepts, and people
- Responsible stewardship of public and private resources, the public trust, and Cameron's future

{VISION}

My priorities to demonstrate our six core values include Learning, Improved Services, Effective Facilities, Engagement, and Partnerships. These areas of focus are the keys to meeting our institutional goals to make Cameron University:

The University of Choice for the Educational,
Cultural, and Economic Advancement of
Southwest Oklahoma and the Surrounding Region.

We are here to improve student learning and
student success inside and outside the classroom.

{Learning}

We focus on student learning not only because it is
our first core value but also to increase student
retention and graduation rates for first-time, full-
time baccalaureate degree seeking students.

However, we also focus on student learning
because at Cameron University all of our students
matter including transfer students, part-time
students, associate degree students, and graduate
students.

If we are to grow as a state, Oklahoma higher education must educate the workforce for existing and new occupations as well as grow good citizens of the communities in which they reside. At Cameron, we must take advantage of and support the multiple entry and exit points of the educational system for all of our students using our associates, bachelors, and masters granting functions.

Creating educated and engaged graduates is not only good for our community but also supports the twelve year Complete College America goals for Oklahoma graduates announced by Governor Fallin and Chancellor Johnson in September 2011.

{Improved Services}

In order to address the challenge of increasing our retention and graduation rates, we must also continue to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our services to our students. Our new initiative “Graduation Starts Today” plays several roles. For our students this short phrase is intended to remind us that each choice of class; each choice of activity or organizational membership; and each lifestyle choice affects our commitment and ability to meet our goals from the first day on campus and every day thereafter.

For our employees “Graduation Starts Today” represents our integration of student services and support systems – recruitment, admissions,

placement, academic advising, career advising, career placement, and alumni participation to seamlessly assist our students to meet their educational goals.

{Facilities}

The learning environment represented by our facilities and the technology available to our students is another area of emphasis. We have seen extraordinary improvements to our physical plant under the leadership of President Emerita Cindy Ross. The transformation of this campus has been astounding. However, there is much yet to be done. Many of our older structures and classrooms need renovation to facilitate the many new learning opportunities and tools available to

our students. We must continue to increase collaboration areas; improve technology access; and increase hours of access if we are to meet the needs of current and future students in Lawton, in Duncan, in southwest Oklahoma and in virtual learning environments.

{Engagement}

If facilities represent where we learn, then “Engagement” will represent how we will learn together. To efficiently and effectively educate our students, the learning experience can no longer be confined to the classroom. Many forms of student engagement outside the classroom may already be familiar to you such as internships, study abroad, or participation in student

organizations and honor societies. Increasingly service learning and civic engagement projects contribute meaningfully to the educational experience. Engaged employees and engaged students are more likely to realize the values of higher education as not only a personal good but as a civic good to improve our communities and state.

{Partnerships}

Finally, we can't do this alone. Our educational partnerships with common education and career-technology education must flourish. Half of our students graduate from Lawton, Cache, Duncan, and Elgin High Schools. Two-thirds of our students are from Comanche and Stephens

counties and three-fourths of our students are from our eleven county service area in southwest Oklahoma. If the students we hope to educate are here then we have the responsibility to provide caring, competent, and committed teachers and instructors for all levels of the educational process in southwest Oklahoma in cooperation with the school and career technology principals and superintendents in this part of the state.

Community partners include area businesses, agencies, and health care providers. As one example, Fort Sill has been and continues to be an essential partner by supporting our nationally recognized ROTC program, providing internships

for our students, and occupational opportunities
for our graduates.

{Conclusion}

Learning, Improved Services, Facilities,
Engagement, and Partnerships are the keys to
meeting our institutional goals. I look forward to
working with each of you to make Cameron
University: The University of Choice for the
Educational, Cultural, and Economic
Advancement of Southwest Oklahoma and the
Surrounding Region.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the
seventeenth president of Cameron University.

Thank you.