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IU East Student Events and Activities Center Grand Opening Celebration

Remarks of Michael A. McRobbie

President, Indiana University

Student Events and Activities Center

IU East

Richmond, IN

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7:00 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTION

Thank you, very much, Stacie.

The size of tonight's audience and the many distinguished guests are a measure of the esteem in which the entire region holds the IU East campus.

I am very pleased to welcome a member of the Indiana General Assembly who is with us this evening. State Senator Jeff Raatz, who represents District 27, is here with his wife, Lisa. Please join me in welcoming them.

2. AT THE HEART OF EXCELLENCE AT IU EAST

It is a great pleasure to be back in Richmond and on the IU East campus.

Occasions like tonight's celebration of the opening of this splendid center remind us that people are at the true heart of Indiana University's long history of excellence.

We have seen this in evidence in the talented alumni who have performed this evening, and in the talented student athletes who have earned NAIA All-American honors. We

have seen further evidence in the inspirational story of tennis player and cancer survivor, Vicky Duval, and the important work of IU East alumnus, Keith Fargo, with the Alzheimer's Association.

And we have seen it in the alumni and friends who have so generously supported the construction of this Student Events and Activities Center, a center that will help IU East students gain the life and leadership skills that will serve this community for many years to come. The strong spirit of community support for this new building is a measure of the degree to which IU East is valued as a community resource and partner.

That same spirit exists across the state, in large part due to IU's long history of providing quality higher education throughout Indiana. IU East and the other regional campuses of Indiana University serve as invaluable economic and community development catalysts in their regions, and they play a major role in helping the state achieve its goal of increasing the number of Indiana residents with college degrees.

Nowhere is the impact of IU's regional campuses more greatly felt than here in the Richmond area. Some 86 percent of IU East graduates stay in the area, using their new skills and knowledge to contribute—along with current IU East students, faculty, and staff—in countless ways, large and small, to the civic, economic, and cultural life of this region and the state.

And the campus has seen enormous success in recent years. It has seen increased enrollment and produced record numbers of graduates—knowledgeable and skilled people who continue in increasing numbers and to greater degrees to apply their knowledge and creativity to drive the engine of successful innovation here in Wayne County and east-central Indiana.

3. SUPPORT FOR THE STUDENT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES CENTER

But if we are to continue to attract and retain the best and brightest students, we must provide our students—all across the state—with environments that foster learning and build community.

Buildings like the one in which we are gathered this evening help do just that. They enhance the vitality and functionality of our campuses, and provide students with opportunities for engagement and leadership.

As I said this afternoon at the building dedication, the support shown by members of the Richmond community for the Student Events and Activity Center is part of a long tradition of engaged community members demonstrating their support for higher education in Richmond.

Through the “Bold Aspirations” Campaign, members of the community, as you know, generously gave more than \$1.7 million toward this center’s construction.

On behalf of Indiana University, I want to express our deepest thanks to a number of donors who are here this evening whose generosity is—in many cases—being recognized with named spaces in the building.

In recognition of Paul and Pat Lingle’s generous support for the center, the court that will host basketball and volleyball games in this very room will be known as Lingle Court. Paul and Pat also support the Lingle Scholars program at IU East.

Doug Brenneke, vice president of research and development for Belden, a telecommunications company that has had a long presence in Richmond, is also with us this evening. Belden provided generous cash support for this building as well as cable and data networking products.

A generous contribution from West End Bank made possible the building's West End Bank Plaza. With us tonight are West End Bank board chair and former CEO, John McBride and current CEO and IU East alumnus, Tim Frame.

The generosity of First Bank Richmond is making possible the building's First Bank Richmond Atrium. Gary Kleer, the bank's president, is with us tonight.

The Quigg Family Foundation is generously supporting the Nasser Paydar Classroom in the new building. The "Bold Aspirations" Campaign began under Nasser's leadership as Chancellor. Rob Quigg, of Richmond Baking Co., is with us tonight—as is Felicia Quigg, who was a co-chair of the "Bold Aspirations" Campaign with her husband, Bill.

Reid Health also provided generous support for the center. Reid Health provides an athletic trainer to IU East each year at no charge, and supports a number of other initiatives. The wellness center in Springwood Hall will later be named the Reid Wellness Center in recognition of their gift. Angie Dickman, Reid Health's vice president of business development, is with us this evening. Angie and her husband, Dan, were also co-chairs of the "Bold Aspirations" Campaign.

And I also want to express our thanks to Chancellor Kathy Cruz-Urbe and her husband, Gene. In recognition of their generous support, the interactive classroom in Springwood Hall is being named in their honor.

The people I have named have deep and extensive ties to Indiana University. Among them are IU and IU East alumni, recipients of the IU East Chancellor's Medallion, members of the IU East Board of Advisors, parents of IU students, and a recipient of an honorary IU doctorate. As I said earlier, their dedication underscores the fact that people are at the heart of excellence at Indiana University.

Would you join me in expressing our gratitude to all the generous donors whose support helped make this splendid new building possible?

4. THE FOR ALL BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

We are, of course, now in the midst of the first-ever university-wide, all-campus philanthropic campaign—*For All: the Indiana University Bicentennial Campaign*—with a record goal of \$2.5 billion to be raised by 2020. The bold and visionary goals of the bicentennial campaign, which are the most ambitious in Indiana University's history and among the largest ever by a public university, truly will set Indiana University on the course for greatness in its third century.

Built on our strategic priorities, this unprecedented undertaking will fulfill IU's promise to change the way we live through path-breaking research, innovative academic programs, unparalleled international engagement and an accessible and exceptionally valuable education.

I am delighted to report that we are already well over halfway to our goal, having so far raised more than \$1.6 billion through the support of nearly 238,000 donors.

Each campus, of course, has its own goal as part of the campaign.

Here at IU East, support for the campaign will open doors of opportunity for students to have access to education and to scholars to freely follow their curiosity and make dramatic discoveries.

Support for the campaign will help IU and IU East meet the educational challenges of the next century by graduating soundly educated, highly motivated, and well-prepared individuals, who will contribute to the growth, prosperity, and well-being of their regions, Indiana, the nation, and the world.

I know that many of you who are here tonight have already donated to the campaign. We are deeply grateful for your support.

You all are prime examples of the loyalty and generosity that help Indiana University to maintain the level of excellence that has been its hallmark for nearly 200 years.

Thank you for your leadership and for your support. Thank you for all you have done to help make this wonderful Student Events and Activities Center a reality. And thank you for and for all you have done—and continue to do—for Indiana University.