

Installation of Michael Harris  
Remarks of Michael A. McRobbie  
President, Indiana University  
Havens Auditorium  
Indiana University Kokomo  
Friday, Oct. 22, 2010  
11:00 am

PRESIDENT McROBBIE:

Good afternoon. It is a great pleasure to welcome all of you to this celebration of the partnership that holds so much promise for this campus and this community, and to install IU Kokomo's new chancellor, Michael Harris.

I know that I have been looking forward to this day with keen anticipation, and it seems that the entire community shares that anticipation. We received so many RSVPs, that we changed venues from Kresge Auditorium to the much larger Havens Auditorium to accommodate all of you. This is a wonderful problem to have.

I would like to begin by introducing members of the Board of Trustees who are with us today. I ask each to stand for our greeting: Philip N. Eskew of North Webster and Thomas E. Reilly of Indianapolis. Please join me in welcoming our trustees.

I know there are many longtime campus supporters in the audience; so many, in fact, that it would be impossible to introduce all of you. I would, however, like to welcome State Senator Jim Buck and Hodge Patel, representing Congressman Joe Donnelly. Would you please join me in welcoming them. I would also like to extend a special greeting to the IU Kokomo faculty, students and staff who are with us today. You help make this campus the very special place that it is, and I ask you to stand for our welcome.

As with every installation ceremony, this is a very special celebration. Chancellor Harris envisioned this day as a celebration of the future of this region and of the many ways in which IU Kokomo can be a catalyst for change. He is determined to build upon the great partnership between this campus and the broader community, and he wanted today's celebration to have a look and feel all its own in order to reflect the great richness and depth of that partnership. As such, this installation departs from our usual formal approach.

We are, however, an institution of higher learning. Thus, it is fitting that our first speaker is a member of the IU Kokomo faculty. Dianne Roden is a professor of finance. She joined the School of Business in 1992, after receiving her master's degree from Butler University and her doctorate from our neighbors to the west. She has taught both undergraduate and graduate courses, and she has received numerous teaching awards. She has also taken an active role in faculty governance. Please join me in welcoming Professor Dianne Roden to the podium.

#### PROFESSOR RODEN:

It is a distinct honor to be able to welcome Michael Harris as the new chancellor of Indiana University Kokomo. I find it quite humbling to be sharing this stage with these three other esteemed speakers. Truthfully, I am little nervous, but I will try to give them the best warm-up act that I can.

When Michael arrived on this campus, he really hit the ground running and to be honest, he was a little frightening at first. It was no time at all before he started to make changes. He had been here barely a month, when we underwent "The Big Move." Despite a power outage, a fire alarm, and extreme heat and humidity, nine departments were moved in a single day. All kinds of people, desks, and computers were shifted from one building to another, and the whole campus became a flurry of activity. It rapidly became evident that we were indeed "on the move," but I had to wonder: Did we really

know just where we were going?

After Chancellor Harris' explosive arrival, I found myself reflecting on this campus' strengths. And there are many:

- IU Kokomo's full-time enrollment is at an all-time high this semester;
- We have the third largest public nursing school in the state, and many of our nursing students and faculty are actively involved with a recently expanded international exchange program with South Korea;
- We received a ten-year reaccreditation for the campus as a whole, and we recently underwent very successful reaccreditation visits in all of our professional schools.
- We have many productive and dedicated faculty and staff, who have won numerous awards for excellence in teaching, research and service.
- In May, everyone cheered as our 10,000<sup>th</sup> graduate received her diploma.

We have much to be proud of.

I really love my job. I've loved it since I arrived at IU Kokomo 18 years ago. What initially attracted me to this campus was that it is part of Indiana University, an internationally recognized institution. While I had access to IU's great resources, such as its library system and information technology, I was able to teach on a small, friendly campus where I could get to know my students by name. I felt like I had the best of both worlds, so all this talk of change made me feel a little apprehensive.

But a little discomfort turned out to be a very good thing because it served as a wake-up call. It prompted me to look anew at our surrounding communities, where many people are struggling in the current economic climate. After years of heavy reliance on the auto industry, this region must reinvent itself. To create jobs, it needs to attract new businesses, especially in the technology sector. Education will play a key role, and IU Kokomo has the opportunity to be the catalyst that helps transform this region. We can

help strengthen the economic and cultural vitality of the region by serving as a resource, building partnerships and coalitions, and offering relevant programs that stimulate innovation and the entrepreneurial spirit.

We understand that these are troubling times. IU Kokomo faculty and staff live in this region and share its values. We want to help. And now, under the leadership of Chancellor Harris, we have new incentive to step forward and make a real difference by strengthening and transforming the region. I find this both challenging and exciting, and my colleagues and I are eager to be involved.

I would like to thank Michael Harris for pushing me outside of my comfort zone and making me open my eyes to new possibilities. Although he was pretty scary at first, I am very glad that he is here. To Michael - thank you for choosing to come to Indiana University Kokomo. I extend to you and your whole family my warmest welcome.

PRESIDENT McROBBIE:

Thank you, Dianne. I think you have captured the wave of energy that has engulfed IU Kokomo since Michael arrived.

Now it is my pleasure to introduce someone who knows both Michael Harris and IU Kokomo very well indeed. Kathleen Ligocki is one of Indiana University's most remarkable graduates, and over the past three decades she has become one of the world's leading automotive executives. In fact, just last week, she was named CEO of Next Autoworks, a new American car company. She has expertise in manufacturing and engineering, experience in all aspects of business, and a sense of comfort gained from working in and visiting 160 countries. But her strengths extend beyond the world of business. She earned a bachelor of arts degree from Indiana University Kokomo, where she concentrated on Chinese history, Renaissance art, and political science. She has a passion for other cultures, and she is fluent in several languages. She is truly a citizen of

the world, and she demonstrates the great power of liberal education. And yet, she is grounded here.

As many of you know, her career began in Kokomo in the late 1970s, when she served as the only female foreman at the Delco plant. She is with us today because she is a friend and colleague of Michael Harris. They met about five years ago when Michael was provost and vice president for academic affairs at Kettering University in Flint, Michigan, and she was a member of the Board of Trustees. They share many of the same aspirations for this region, and I am delighted she is here today. Would you help me welcome Ms. Kathleen Ligocki?

<Kathleen Ligocki gives her remarks, which are not available to include here.>

PRESIDENT McROBBIE:

Thank you, Kathleen. Your presence and your remarks are especially meaningful on this special occasion.

At a ceremony such as this it seems only fitting that we replace our customary musical interlude with an infusion of high-tech energy. I am very pleased to introduce this video, titled "Forging a New Future." It was created by some of the very talented members of the information technology team at Indiana University.

<McROBBIE is seated. At the conclusion of the video, he returns to the podium.>

Please join me in a round of applause for the team that created that terrific video.

Friends and colleagues, we now come to the central moment of this ceremony – the installation of Michael Harris as Chancellor. Michael, please join me at the lectern.

Michael Harris, the responsibilities of stewardship are well-known to you. Your education and your experience as an academic administrator have prepared you for the leadership of this campus of Indiana University. We look to you for guidance in achieving the purposes of Indiana University Kokomo, and to strengthening all aspects of this campus. You see before you your chancellor's mantle, the symbol of office. We hope that you will wear it with pride; it is yours to keep in perpetuity.

Michael Harris, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Trustees of Indiana University, I install you as Chancellor of Indiana University Kokomo. I place upon you the powers, duties, and responsibilities of this high office and deliver this symbol of authority into your keeping.

Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you Michael Harris, Chancellor of Indiana University Kokomo.

<Chancellor Harris gives his remarks, which are not available to include here.>

PRESIDENT McROBBIE:

Thank you, Michael. Your words inspire great optimism and confidence for the future of this campus and of our university. I know that I speak for all of us in extending hearty congratulations and best wishes.

And so we come to the end of this installation ceremony. In order to make this event possible, many people have worked long hours. I extend my personal thanks to the installation committee, which was co-chaired by Deanna Crispen and Eva White, ably assisted by Tara Scott and Cathy Valcke. I would also like to commend the technical and video team, which was led by Michael Jasiak and Steve Solie. And finally, I would like to express our appreciation to Delphi Electronics and Safety for its support. Please join me in thanking all of them.

Although the ceremony is concluding, the celebration is not. First, I urge you to visit the booths featuring student and faculty research projects in the Kelley Student Center, Alumni Hall, and the library. While you are there, I hope you will drop by the exhibits created by our community partners. Altogether, there are about 60 displays on view. Afterward, I invite you to join us for a reception in Alumni Hall.

Once again, thank you for joining us. Good day.