AWARD SPEECH

FOR

ALYSSA CHAPITAL

Hello everyone! (**If there is anyone in particular you want to acknowledge for inviting you to speak, do so here**) I want to thank \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for giving me the opportunity to speak to you tonight about someone who is very special to all of us. It is a privilege and pleasure to work closely in partnership with Dr. Bhavesh Patel and it is a particular honor to have the chance to acknowledge the marvel, the man, the mentor, that is Bhavesh Patel as he receives the award for Distinguished Educator of the Year. If you are in this room there’s a very good chance that at some point in your career, you have crossed paths with, or have been impacted by, the light that this man emanates. He is a beacon of information, compassion, and inspiration here at the Mayo Clinic, and I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this honor.

Alexander the Great is believed to have said, “I am indebted to my father for living, but to my teacher for living well.” Imagine that expression applied to all of those who have learned from Dr. Patel, who have then gone on to treat, heal, and teach others. Pardon the medical pun, but take a moment to imagine the viral growth of the lessons he’s taught and how, when passed on to others, those lessons have saved lives, created careers, and have advanced the causes of wellness, growth, and knowledge in the very best senses of those words. Bhavesh’s dedication to what he does is obvious, and his accomplishments reinforce his passion for medicine, research and education. In the words of Lord Byron, “Adversity is the first path to truth.” As doctors, we face adversity on many levels every day. It is someone remarkable, Like Dr. Patel, who finds passion in the path. He is someone who really inspires each one of us to want to learn more. His accomplishments are almost too many to mention, but I’d like to try. Bhavesh Patel is the doctor’s doctor and the teacher’s teacher. He is a true leader and knows how to motivate and inspire those lucky enough to learn with him. He is respectful of the talents and characteristics of those who work by his side, and he has an innate sense of how to tailor the teaching as needed. He leaves his mark wherever he goes…. literally. If I didn’t know better, I might think he was working on a performance piece. I don’t know how many of you know the artist known as Christo, but his body of work is dedicated to wrapping massive structures in cloth. He draped orange cloth gates all over Central Park in New York. He wrapped the Pont Neuf in Paris and an entire wall on the Via Veneto in Rome. Somehow, Bhavesh is our Christo, only his medium is Post-its and white boards. His teaching is innovative, but his notes are a step **beyond**. Like Kilroy, one knows the Mark Of Patel, and in a way, those notes all over…. and I mean **ALL OVER THE PLACE**, are his calling card. They are his way of saying, “Knowledge and research are alive and well in this place… and this one…and this one….” (**Wait for the laugh**)…Rumor has it that he’s thinking of skipping the notes and just writing directly on patient doors with erasable markers…. **THAT** could be interesting!!

But all jokes aside, the man is extraordinary. From setting up an educational project in Haiti where local doctors are taught, to establishing a telemedicine radiology initiative, to building an ICU and training its staff, to learning everything about ventilators and teaching colleagues how to use them, to drilling holes in the operating room and burying the dead, Bhavesh Patel repeatedly demonstrates what it truly means to dedicate one’s heart and mind to medicine and the betterment of all, and he never stops. He is never satisfied. He doesn’t rest and it’s like he won’t rest until everyone is taught, everything is built, and everyone is healed.

Thanks to his innovative teaching techniques, the department continually receives accolades. Dr. Patel has received the Lifetime Award for Education and is no longer allowed to receive Educator of the Year awards because of his prowess, but does that stop him? No, **it certainly does not**!! In fact, he was recognized at the Surgery Chief Dinner because of the positive impact he consistently demonstrates on those involved in the hospital’s residency program. He has introduced vital programs like the Fundamentals of Critical Care Course and his ingenious solutions for allowing hands on practice in a safe environment is ground breaking and life-saving. We like to think of that Simulation Center as “Dr. Patel’s Playground.” Imagine the Post-its in THAT area!! He selflessly devotes his time to investigating equipment and curriculum in order to support the Clinic’s quality improvements in patient care, and as he networks with those who share his vision, we all are witness to a new and transformed way that future physicians are being taught. He is responsible for initiating a PA position in the critical care department and has even established a foundation to insure that the person with those responsibilities has the equipment and tools urgently needed in maintaining and saving lives. Thanks to his intense efforts and devotion to this project, the educational plan he instituted has become the foundation of our newly accredited PA Fellowship in Critical Care.

(**Turn to Dr, Patel and say**) Bhavesh, you give the gifts of life, inspiration, dedication and education to all those who have the privilege of knowing you. As I said a few moments ago, it is an honor to know you, a joy to be your friend, and a blessing to be your partner. Please accept my heartfelt congratulations as you receive this honor, and may you continue to explore and teach, inspire and heal, for many, many years to come. Congratulations!