**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT SPEECH**

**FOR**

**HARRY ROSEMOND**

Friends, family, colleagues, students, administrators, city officials, **(if there is anyone in particular you want to acknowledge, name them here**) and especially, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I want to take a few moments to express my gratitude for this incredible honor. I must admit, while it’s kind of jarring to see my name on a building, it’s even more humbling to see so many of you here today, to witness this dedication. To those of you that have traveled great distances to be here, please know that the efforts you made to be here make this moment that much sweeter. No matter the means of transportation or the time it took to get here…. or anywhere, one thing I’ve realized as I’ve gotten on in years is the philosophy expressed by Anna Quindlen in her book, **A Short Guide to a Happy Life**, “Look at the view.” Enjoy the view. Those words really resonate for me as I stand here before so many of you, partnered with my colleague, Dr. Carsch Wilturner, and admire the fruits of this wonderful acknowledgement, the Wilturner-Rosemond Learning and Innovation Center. What a thrill this is!!!

As I am sure all of you know, no one gets to where they’re going without strong, positive influences in their lives. I stand here as a product of parents who were absolutely dedicated to my success in life, no matter the level of their accomplishments or challenges. My parents, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, had only fourth grade educations, but that didn’t stop them from inspiring and encouraging me to get the best education possible or to give back what I’d learned. While I am very grateful that they witnessed me graduate from high school, they both sadly passed away one month after that graduation, a day apart from each other. And while I wish they could be with me today to witness this milestone, I want to believe that somehow, they’re here, beaming with pride. (**Do you want to thank any other family members??? If so, do that here**). I would like to express my gratitude to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for their incredible support and encouragement throughout my career. There is someone else that played a large part in my development and that is my fifth grade teacher, Sister James Therese. She’s in Home in Hawaii(?) We still keep in touch. I will never forget the time she told me, “We used to pray for you.” I don’t know what was in her prayers, but it looks like they worked!! (**Wait for the laugh**)…… I do want to send out **HUGE** thanks to Sister.

I have been blessed to received meaningful acknowledgements throughout my career. From the the Certificate of Recognition Black Live Matter Award to the Northwest Teachers Association Outstanding Educator Award and the Green River College Distinguished Teacher Award, each distinction meant so much to me, and while I taught for the sheer joy and purpose of educating curious minds, each award and citation showed me that what I did mattered. Every milestone formed a building block in the proverbial edifice that became my teaching career. With today’s ceremony, it is incredible to me that this building, named so generously for both Dr. Wilturner and myself, serves as a physical monument and symbol of the careers we both nurtured and explored for a combined total of over **EIGHTY** years. Knowing that this structure, built brick by brick, will hopefully be an enduring foundation of learning and innovation for many years to come, is both symbolic and quite overwhelming.

In the book, **The Miseducation of the Negro**, Carter G. Woodson tells us, “Real education means to inspire people to live more abundantly, to learn to begin with life as they find it and make it better.” Thanks to Green River College’s newest building, the people of these communities have greater chances to receive and impart education and extended knowledge and that is all an incredible boost to this region. It’s also been said that, “When your dreams are bigger than the places you find yourself in, sometimes you need to seek out your own reminders that there is more. And there is always more….” Thanks to this Learning and Innovation Center, more awaits. There is no longer need to fear the unknown… the light of education shines bright in Auburn, Washington!! Thank you all!!