**Akinci Speech [EZ Speech No. 16400]**

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Remarks by Dean Fevzi Akinci at the 88th birthday celebration of John C. Rangos, at Duquesne University’s Rangos School of Health Sciences.

president [name] . . . provost [name] . . . LADIES AND GENTLEMEN . . . RSHS FACULTY AND STAFF [etc.] . . . friends, colleagues and familY MEMBERS . . . :

I FEEL BOTH tremendously PRIVILEGED AND deeply HONORED TO BE A PART OF this auspicious occasion, in which we honor our school’s principal benefactor, Mr. John G. Rangos, sr.

NOW, I’VE BEEN DEAN OF THE RANGOS SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES FOR ONLY ABOUT A MONTH, BUT ALREADY I’VE COME TO APPRECIATE DEEPLY THE LEVEL OF COMPETENCE, PROFES-SIONALISM, AND EXCELLENCE THAT HAVE BECOME NOT JUST THE HALLMARKS, BUT INDEED THE *TRADEMARKS*, OF THIS REMARKABLE INSTITUTION. OUR FACULTY HAVE WON INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIM IN BASIC AND CLINICAL RESEARCH, CLINICAL CARE, AND MEDICAL EDUCATION — AND RIGHTLY SO. FOR Our graduates CONTINUE TO excel in their respective professional licensing exams, and are SUPERBLY well prepared to assume leadership roles IN WHATEVER COMMUNITIES THEY END UP SERVING.

now this track record of excellence is the legacy of the three dedicated educators who’ve served before me as dean of the rangos school of health sciences — Dr. jerome martin, who was our first dean and remains dean emeritus; Dr. greory H. Frazer, who followed dr. frazer; and finally, dr. paula turoc, from whom I’m honored to take the reins of leadership here. you know, isaac newton once said, in acknowleging his debt to past thinkers, that his accomplishments were possible only because, quote, “I stood on the shoulders of giants.” well, i feel exactly the same WAY. if i may use a sports analogy, I FEEL VERY MUCH LIKE A head FOOTBALL COACH WHO’S JUST TAKEN over A CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM!

as i assume leadership of the rangos school, my plan is simple, for i intend to follow in my predecessors’ brilliant footsteps, building on what they’ve created, and enhancing even further OUR school’s reputation as one of the top health sciences schools not only in this country, but in the world.

i will continue to actively engage all our school’s stakeholders so that we TOGETHER may continue to ACHIEVE the highlest levels of teaching, research, community outreach, and evidence-based healthcare.

i want to continue building mission-centric, innovative partnerships with local communities to promote health equity, especially IN LOCALES WHERE healthcare is still a “luxury” which too many people simply can’t afford.

and finally, I’d also like to see us undertake new and innovative approaches to health sciences REASEARCH and health-systems-management in such key disciplines as [name them].

but perhaps my most important goal is to listen. I want to get input from everybody. I want to pick everybody’s brains, for all of us together are way smarter than any one of us is alone. no newly appointed dean could possibly ask for a more talented, more accomplished, or more dedicated team than the one I’ve now been called upon to lead. I’D BE CRIMINALLY NEGLIGENCT IF I FAILED TO LEARN AS MUCH AS I POSSIBLY CAN FROM THEM.

[TURNING TO MR. RANGOS] IN CLOSING, I’D LIKE TO THANK YOU, MR. RANGOS, FOR ALL YOU’VE DONE FOR THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES, FOR ALL THE SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT YOU CONTINUE TO BESTOW UPON US, AND FOR YOUR CONTINUING DEDICATION TO EXCELLENCE IN ALL THINGS. I MUST TELL YOU, SIR, THAT THE SCHOLARS AWARD YOU ENDOWED BACK IN 2015 HAS TRULY BEEN A GOD-SEND TO OUR STUDENT COMMUNITY, HELPING TO INSPIRE AND SMOOTH THE PATH FOR NEARLY TWO DOZEN STUDENTS WHO, WITHOUT YOUR SCHOLARS AWARD, MIGHT NEVER BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE A SUCCESSFUL CAREER IN HEALTH SCIENCES.

so on behalf of the entire faculty, staff, and study body of the rangos school of health sciences, please accept my sincerest thanks and deepest appreciation for your continuous support and commitment to our school. and on this GLORIOUS occasion of your eighty-eighth birth-day, I would like to wish you [birthday greetings in greek, then translate it for the audience].

[INTRODUCE THE NEXT SPEAKER?]

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