

GOVERNOR'S SCHOLAR LUNCHEON

WELCOMING REMARKS

Dr. Allen Fossbender, CAS President

Good afternoon, students, parents, teachers, and invited guests. I am delighted that you have joined us today. Students, in welcoming you, I express some simple but important sentiments of appreciation, of respect, and of hope.

Firstly, I profess my appreciation for your intelligence, your conceptual ability is extraordinary. I do not know a teacher or an administrator who does not cherish the moments during which they interact with students of your caliber, knowing that they are beneficiaries of the power and the beauty of your intellect.

I think, however, that most of the people in this room believe that your intellect is largely a coincidence of birth. In that regard, perhaps one of the wisest things you have done is to choose the right parents before you were conceived.

So my appreciation for your intellect notwithstanding, I have great respect for your work ethic, which has been burnished by sacrifice, perseverance, and resilience. It is your exceptional work ethic that distinguishes you from so many of your peers, that empowers you to fulfill your intellectual potential. It is obvious that you are dedicated to personal excellence, that you disdain mediocrity. It is obvious that you embrace the joy of learning and have the discipline to achieve it.

Lastly, I express hope. I hope that you use your noteworthy intelligence and exemplary work ethic to do good deeds throughout your life, deeds that are guided sound ethics and great compassion for others. Years from now when you review the deeds of your lifetime, I hope you can be comforted in knowing that they have brought honor to your family, to your community, and to your country.

Students, I am honored by your presence today. I commend you. You are an inspiration.

I thank the parents and invited guests for raising and mentoring such wonderful young people. I also thank the Big Y for its continued generosity, and I thank commissioner Sternberg for her sustained commitment to educational excellence.

Ladies and gentlemen, I hope you enjoy the luncheon.