President’s Remarks

(As Prepared)

Good morning. Tamara thank you for that very generous introduction. It is a privilege to be here today to share in this special moment and to extend words of congratulations on behalf of President Stith. Today belongs to our honorees, so I will keep my remarks brief.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said that: Life’s most persistent and urgent question is what are you doing for others?

Today we recognize members of the Spartan family who have answered life’s most persistent and urgent question through their years of hard work and selfless-service to Norfolk State University and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Whether you are being recognized today for 5 years of service or for a lifetime of service, my message to you can be expressed in two words – and those two words are thank you. Thank you for staying the course in good times and in challenging times. Thank you for sharing your expertise and talents with the Spartan community. And thank you for making this University a better place to learn, to live, and to work. We could not move NSU forward with you.

As an HBCU for the Modern World, Norfolk State University, is grounded by its heritage, focused on the future and deeply committed to student success. What sets us apart from other institutions of higher education is our strong sense of community. A community that fully embraces our students the very first time they step foot on campus and says to them that we respect you as an individual and believe in your hopes, your dreams, and your ability to succeed.

All of us in this room today, and particularly our honorees are an important part of what makes NSU such a special community. Whether you work at the main gate or serve on the faculty, you are an important part of the NSU story and play a vital role in supporting the success of our students by creating a safe and supportive environment in which they can thrive.

As we gather to recognize those who have given so much of themselves to this University. I can think of no better way to honor their years of service than by recommitting ourselves to the University’s core values of academic excellence, student centered focus, diversity, integrity, and collegiality.

There is no higher calling in terms of a career than public service. Be proud of your contributions and accomplishments and know that your sacrifices for the common good have not gone unnoticed. You are making a difference. And the impact of your work can be felt not just at this university, but across this state, throughout this country, and around the world.
On behalf of President Stith and the entire senior management team I say congratulations to all of today’s award recipients on a job well done. You inspire all of us to be better and to do better. BEHOLD THE GREEN AND GOLD.