President’s Welcome

Astra – thank you so much for that wonderful introduction.

Good morning to all and welcome to Norfolk State University where we see the future in you. NSU is a special place where hard work pays off and dreams become reality.

Both my wife and I are proud NSU alums. We and the more than 25,000 members of the alumni association are passionate about NSU and committed to ensuring the continued success of this university by Virginia’s golden shore.

In 1935, NSU opened its doors in a tiny space at the local YMCA. Since then, we have become a leader in Cybersecurity, STEM, the Arts, and Business.

We have also grown into a 136 acre campus with state of the art academic buildings and modern student housing, which will soon be expanded with the addition of a 730 room residential housing complex, and athletic facilities anchored by an ever expanding base of alumni and corporate supporters.

You are becoming members of the Spartan family during an exciting period of growth and progress for the university.

Despite our great progress, there is one thing that has remained unchanged over the years. At Norfolk State University, students will always be first and a quality higher education will always be accessible to those who come through our doors committed to the pursuit of higher learning and self-empowerment. As an HBCU for the modern world, NSU is grounded by its history, focused on the future, and deeply committed to the success of our students.
Today marks the beginning of what will be some of the best days of your lives. As you begin your NSU journey, I encourage you to remember these three keys to success:

First, academics must always be your number one priority. In the year 2018, a college education is a very expensive endeavor. Your job over the next 4 to 6 years will be to ensure a positive return on the investment that you and your parents are making in your future by doing the hard work that is necessary to graduate. This work will not be easy, but you must stay the course.

Know that the faculty and staff of this university are here to support you during every step of your journey. Help is never more than an email or phone call away. Your success is our success.

Second, make time to engage in the life of the university by participating in the wide range of student activities and athletic events offered throughout the year.

The college years are a time when lifelong friendships and memories are made. Study hard, but also take time to enjoy the moment. These will be some of the best days of your life. Cherish them and make them your own.

Finally, expand your horizons by diversifying your world view. Today more than ever, we live in a highly competitive global society.

To be successful in the 21st century you must be able to effectively navigate a wide-range of cultures. Use the next four years as an opportunity to experience new cultures, learn new languages, and consider new points of view. By doing so you will position yourself for a life-time of success.

This is your moment. This is your university. Welcome home and BEHOLD THE GREEN AND GOLD.