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UA3/9/5 Academy of Math & Science Dedication

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ACADEMY OF MATH AND SCIENCE DEDICATION

AUGUST 23, 2007
1:00 P.M.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS/SPEAKERS

DR. JULIA ROBERTS

DR. ROBERTS’ REMARKS

• RECOGNIZE THE FOLLOWING FROM THE AUDIENCE:

STAGE GUESTS: KENTUCKY SECRETARY OF THE EDUCATION CABINET LAURA OWENS; SPEAKER OF THE KENTUCKY HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES JODY RICHARDS; WKU PRESIDENT GARY RANSDELL; MR. BILL GATTON; AND JOHN MAX WILSON, ACADEMY STUDENT OF FULTON COUNTY.

WKU BOARD OF REGENTS: LOIS GRAY, CHAIR, OF ELIZABETHTOWN; JIM MEYER, VICE CHAIR, OF BOWLING GREEN FORREST ROBERTS OF OWENSBORO; LADONNA ROGERS OF GLASGOW; AND TAMELA SMITH, STAFF REGENT, OF BOWLING GREEN.
BRAD COWGILL – STATE BUDGET DIRECTOR AND SOON TO BE INTERIM PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION – BRAD HAS BEEN A TREMENDOUS SUPPORTER OF THE ACADEMY...

SCOTT RAAB, LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT FOR U.S. SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL – COMMENT ON SENATOR’S SUPPORT FOR GIFTED EDUCATION AND PERSONAL WORK WITH SCOTT WHO HANDLES EDUCATION ISSUES

PHYLLIS CAUSEY, FIELD REPRESENTATIVE FOR CONGRESSMAN RON LEWIS – COMMENT ON CONGRESSMAN’S SUPPORT FOR GIFTED EDUCATION

REPRESENTATIVE ROB WILKEY AND REPRESENTATIVE JIM DECESARE

BOWLING GREEN MAYOR ELAINE WALKER

OTHER OFFICIALS – TBD – ANYBODY FROM KDE? CPE? SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS?
ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE HAD PLANNED ON A NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY JOINING US TODAY, HOWEVER, AS MANY ARE AWARE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS BEEN CALLED INTO SPECIAL SESSION TO CONSIDER AN IMPORTANT ENERGY BILL, AND SO THEY ARE UNABLE TO JOIN US. ACKNOWLEDGE SUPPORT OF HOUSE AND SENATE.

MEMBERS OF THE WKU FOUNDATION BOARD, COLLEGE HEIGHTS BOARD AND CAMPAIGN CABINET (ASK THEM TO STAND)

CENTER FOR GIFTED STUDIES BOARD (RECOGNIZE AS A GROUP)

TIM GOTT, DIRECTOR OF THE ACADEMY AND STAFF (AS A GROUP)

STAFF FOR THE CENTER FOR GIFTED STUDIES

LYNETTE BALDWIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION FOR GIFTED EDUCATION
ACKNOWLEDGE THE ACADEMY STUDENTS (ASK THEM TO STAND AND RECEIVE APPLAUSE) AND ALSO THEIR PARENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS (ALSO ASK THEM TO STAND)

- REMARKS ON SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ACADEMY...

- INTRODUCE THE FLOW OF THE PROGRAM...SECRETARY LAURA OWENS, SPEAKER JODY RICHARDS AND DR. GARY RANSDELL - CALL ON SECRETARY OWENS TO BEGIN

REMARKS

SECRETARY LAURA OWENS

SPEAKER JODY RICHARDS

DR. GARY RANSDELL

DR. RANSDELL’S REMARKS

- TODAY IS INDEED A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD FOR THE COMMONWEALTH AS WE DEDICATE THE ACADEMY OF MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE IN KENTUCKY AT WKU WHERE KENTUCKY’S BRIGHTEST YOUNG MINDS WILL GATHER TO PURSUE ADVANCED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WITH A FOCUS ON MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.
• KENTUCKY IS THE 14TH STATE TO HAVE A RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL FOR HIGH SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS TO STUDY ADVANCED MATH AND SCIENCE. ACADEMY STUDENTS WILL ALSO STUDY AND EARN CREDIT FOR ADVANCED GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES.

• THESE STUDENTS HERE BEFORE YOU (POINT TO STUDENTS) ARE THE INAUGURAL CLASS. THEY REPRESENT THE COMMONWEALTH'S FUTURE.

• WE HOPE THEY ARE WILDLY SUCCESSFUL RIGHT HERE IN KENTUCKY.

• THEY ARE FROM ALL ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH, REPRESENTING 62 COUNTIES.

• THESE 120 STUDENTS WILL SIMULTANEOUSLY COMPLETE THEIR HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND EARN UP TO 60 COLLEGE CREDIT HOURS TOWARD A BACHELOR'S DEGREE HERE AT WKU OR FROM ANY OTHER PUBLIC UNIVERSITY IN KENTUCKY OR ELSEWHERE.
• THEY WILL STUDY UNDER SOME OF THE STATE AND NATION’S MOST DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AND WILL LEARN ALONGSIDE THEIR PEERS AND WKU UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS, MANY OF WHOM WILL BE IN WKU’S NEW HONORS COLLEGE.

• AS WE SEEK TODAY TO GIVE CREDIT TO ALL THOSE WHO MADE THE ACADEMY POSSIBLE, LET ME BEGIN WITH SPEAKER JODY RICHARDS WHO HELPED CONCEIVE THE IDEA OF THE ACADEMY.

• SPEAKER RICHARDS, THROUGH HIS WORK WITH THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL EDUCATION BOARD, STUDIED THE OTHER STATES WHICH HAVE SIMILAR ACADEMIES AND WANTED KENTUCKY TO HAVE ONE.

• BECAUSE OF WKU’S CENTER FOR GIFTED STUDIES, SPEAKER RICHARDS APPROACHED DR. ROBERTS, WHO FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS HAS TRAVELED KENTUCKY, BUILDING SUPPORT FOR THE VISION THAT WE CELEBRATE TODAY, THE ACADEMY OF MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE IN KENTUCKY.
• AFTER SECURING THE INITIAL SEED MONEY FOR PLANNING THE ACADEMY, WE BEGAN TO SEEK SUPPORT FROM THE STATE TO RENOVATE SCHNEIDER HALL TO BE THE HOME OF THE ACADEMY IN 2003.

• THERE WAS AN IMPORTANT ELECTION IN KENTUCKY THAT YEAR – ONE THAT WOULD RESULT IN A NEW GOVERNOR FOR THE COMMONWEALTH.

• THEN-CANDIDATE ERNIE FLETCHER SPENT PART OF A DAY ON OUR CAMPUS, AND AS HE LEARNED MORE ABOUT THE ACADEMY, HE COMMITTED THAT AS GOVERNOR HE WOULD SUPPORT THESE EFFORTS.

• HE DID, AND THANKS TO HIS EFFORTS AND THOSE OF SPEAKER RICHARDS AND HIS HOUSE COLLEAGUES (YOU MAY AT THIS TIME SIMPLY ACKNOWLEDGE REP. WILKEY AND DECESARE) AND ALSO SENATOR BRETT GUTHRIE, WHO IS UNABLE TO BE WITH US TODAY BECAUSE OF WORK OCCURRING IN THE STATE SENATE, AND OTHERS, FUNDING WAS SECURED TO COMPLETE THE BUILDING RENOVATION IN 2005.
• ANOTHER SESSION LATER, WITH GREAT LEADERSHIP FROM SPEAKER RICHARDS, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELIVERED THE BASE OPERATING SUPPORT FOR THE ACADEMY, MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO OPEN THE DOORS TODAY.

• IN OUR EARLY CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE ACADEMY, ONE OF THE POINTS THAT GOVERNOR FLETCHER WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN WAS THE ELEMENT OF PRIVATE SUPPORT THAT WKU MIGHT BE ABLE TO BRING TO BEAR ON THIS PROJECT.

• WE PROMISED THAT IF THE STATE WOULD COME TO THE TABLE AND PROVIDE THE BASIC SUPPORT FOR THE BUILDING RENOVATION AND THE OPERATING FUNDS, THEN WE WOULD WORK TO BRING PRIVATE FUNDS TO HELP ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE FOR ACADEMY STUDENTS.

• I AM PLEASED TO SAY TODAY THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS GENEROUS GIFTS OF SUPPORT FROM CORPORATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS FOR THAT VERY PURPOSE.
• Our focus as we open the Academy today is really three-fold.

• We want to thank those in state government and others who by their efforts to support gifted education in Kentucky and beyond have made the Academy possible.

• And of course we want to welcome the first class of Academy students and recognize their outstanding academic achievements.

• But finally, we want to take this opportunity to announce a very special and quite significant leadership gift from Mr. C.M. "Bill" Gatton.

• Bill Gatton is a native Kentuckian, raised on a farm in West Kentucky, just a few miles from WKU.

• His sister, Marie, a 1936 graduate, taught school in McLean and Muhlenburg counties for 40 years.
• IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY OF MARIE AND HIS BROTHER CHARLES, MR. GATTON HAS ESTABLISHED SCHOLARSHIPS AT WKU, SUPPORTING SEVERAL STUDENTS THROUGH THE YEARS.

• A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMAN IN BRISTOL, TENNESSEE, WITH INTERESTS IN BANKING, REAL ESTATE AND AUTOMOBILE DEALERSHIPS, THE IMPACT OF HIS BUSINESS ACUMEN AND HIS PHILANTHROPIC GENEROSITY IS EVIDENT ACROSS KENTUCKY AND TENNESSEE.

• AS WE TALKED WITH MR. GATTON ABOUT THE ACADEMY OF MATH AND SCIENCE, HE UNDERSTOOD AND EMBRACED THE IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING THESE EXTREMELY GIFTED YOUNG MINDS IN KENTUCKY AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE THEIR INTERESTS ACROSS ALL THE DISCIPLINES - BUT ESPECIALLY IN MATH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - AT A MUCH HIGHER LEVEL.

• HE ALSO UNDERSTANDS THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT PHILANTHROPY PLAYS IN THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE.
• WHILE WE IN PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION WILL ALWAYS BE DEPENDENT ON THE STATE TO PROVIDE THE BASICS, WE ARE INCREASINGLY LOOKING TO OUR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI TO PROVIDE PRIVATE SUPPORT TO BROADEN THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR STUDENTS AND FACULTY.

• MR. GATTON’S LEADERSHIP GIFT WILL PROVIDE FUNDING FOR STUDENT RESEARCH, SERVICE PROJECTS, VISITING SCHOLAR OPPORTUNITIES AND OTHER PROGRAMMING THAT WE WOULD NOT OTHERWISE BE ABLE TO OFFER TO ACADEMY STUDENTS.

• THE STATE’S SUPPORT AND FUNDS COMMITTED BY THE UNIVERSITY HAVE PROVIDED FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE BUILDING AND ALLOW US TO OPERATE THE ACADEMY, FULLY STAFF IT AND PROVIDE FOR THE BASIC NEEDS OF 120 STUDENTS PER YEAR.

• MR. GATTON’S GIFT WILL BUILD ON THAT BASIC SUPPORT.
• AND THANKS TO HIM, EACH STUDENT WILL HAVE A BROADER EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE THAT WILL TAKE THEM BEYOND THE BORDERS OF WKU AND GIVE THEM MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR HANDS-ON LEARNING.

• MR. SPEAKER, THIS IS INDEED THE KIND OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP THAT YOU AND OTHER STATE LEADERS ENVISIONED AS HIGHER EDUCATION REFORM WAS CRAFTED IN 1997.

• AND SECRETARY OWENS, I HOPE YOU WILL PASS ALONG TO THE GOVERNOR THAT INDEED WE KEPT OUR PROMISE TO FIND PRIVATE PARTNERS TO ADD VALUE TO THE STATE’S INVESTMENT.

• AT THIS TIME I WANT TO ASK THE ACADEMY STUDENTS AND STAFF TO GATHER AROUND THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING. (PAUSE AND WAIT UNTIL THEY HAVE DONE SO.)
• WE WANT TO THANK BILL GATTON, AND HIS WIFE LEIGH AND DAUGHTER CHASE (ASK THEM TO STAND), FOR THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT THE ACADEMY, AND WE WANT TO RECOGNIZE THEM BY NAMING THE ACADEMY THE CAROL MARTIN GATTON ACADEMY OF MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE IN KENTUCKY (TURN THE CROWD'S ATTENTION TO THE BUILDING AND THE UNVEILING.)

UNVEILING

• DR. RANSDELL TO CALL UPON MR. GATTON TO MAKE A FEW REMARKS.

REMARKS

MR. BILL GATTON

AT THE END OF MR. GATTON'S REMARKS, DR. ROBERTS WILL COME BACK TO THE PODIUM, INVITE THE STUDENT AND DR. RANSDELL TO JOIN HER TO PRESENT A GIFT TO MR. GATTON.

GIFT PRESENTATION

DR. ROBERTS AND STUDENT

ONCE THE GIFT HAS BEEN PRESENTED AND PHOTOS TAKEN, MR. GATTON AND DR. RANSDELL WILL SIT DOWN AND DR. ROBERTS WILL INTRODUCE THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO MAKE SOME COMMENTS.