

Speech at Marquette University

April 24, 2008

Good Afternoon. I am honored to be with you today. And I am very appreciative that you have shared this beautiful recognition with me. Thank you very much.

I have greatly valued my connections with Marquette over the years – including my years as a post-doctoral student in 1990 working with Dr. Augenstein and Father Kurimey and others in securing my certification as a superintendent. And then as a parent of a student. Our daughter, Meghan, graduated from M.U. in 2000. And then as an adjunct professor for several years in the School of Education. In all these ways, I have found the relationship with Marquette University profoundly growth-evoking, affirming and in harmony with my own concerns for social engagement, social justice, intellectual development, and nurturing of the spirit.

As I reflect on the needs of our world, I believe education is at the heart of all resolutions – that delicate blend of mind and heart/intellect and spirit. Surely we are facing gigantic challenges:

1. The prediction of 9b people by 2050 will cause cataclysmic stresses on the globe. The environmental issues, ecological balances, food and water distribution
2. As we enter the Conceptual Age, that tricky blend of globalization, digital revolution and a new emphasis on creativity will lead us to challenge the Cold War mentality of American superiority in all things – and may force a rethinking and replacement of the adversarial mentality with the collaborative and interconnected approach to our global neighbors.

In all of this, an education that blends the strengths of both the intellect and the spirit will be crucial. Marquette University and its School of Education do this work masterfully. I am grateful to have been part of the work at M.U. and look forward to continued connections.

Thank you so very, very much.

“I must be orderly, predictable in my everyday life, so I can be violently creative when the need arises.”

Goethe