

Remarks  
Dr. Madlyn Hanes, Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses

Penn State York Ground breaking Ceremony  
Graham Center for Innovation and Collaboration  
Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Thank you, President Barron, and good afternoon everyone.

I'm delighted to join you for this milestone event for Penn State York, the broader York community, and the University. We have been looking forward with great anticipation to breaking ground for the Graham Center for Innovation and Collaboration. And here we are—a very exciting day for the campus and all its supporters who are here to celebrate with us. It's wonderful to see you all.

Commonwealth Campuses play a critical role in advancing the University's land-grant mission. As President Barron refers to it—we are “living our land-grant mission” everyday by providing a world class education to the citizens of the Commonwealth close to home.

We live our land-grant mission through our enduring ties to our communities through our relationships--new and long-standing with our many volunteers--our alumni, friends and donors, business and community leaders, and elected officials--volunteers who serve on our campus boards of advisers, technical program boards, and campaign committees.

We live the land-grant mission through our partnerships with community and business organizations. We bring relevant programs that meet the current and emerging regional needs for an educated workforce. Our community partners help us identify these needs and open doors for our students placing them in internships and jobs that launch their careers.

Our campuses are regional leaders of higher education and professional and continuing education that together contribute, in no small way, to the overall educational attainment and economic vitality of the communities we serve.

Today our Commonwealth Campuses serve 30,000 students and confer about 5,000 degrees each year – nearly 30 percent of all the degrees Penn State confers annually.

Many of our students start and ultimately complete their baccalaureate degree programs at our Commonwealth Campuses.

This is certainly the case at Penn State York, which has been experiencing growth in its upper division from students choosing to stay and complete their studies here and students coming here from other institutions to complete their degrees. An excellent indicator that we are providing the right programs, that Penn State York is an excellent steward of the University in an important region of the state. South Central Pennsylvania is one of just a few projected growth

areas of the Commonwealth and this bodes well for our York campus, and for the broader community.

It makes this particular project even more timely--a signature facility and signature programming that will forever distinguish Penn State York and provide exceptional opportunities for its students. This was a shared vision made possible for us by Don—and we thank Don.

The Graham Center for Innovation and Collaboration will facilitate expanded transformative learning opportunities for students, including those participating in the Graham Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership Studies. Students will have abundant, state-of-the-art resources to help them develop and apply their entrepreneurial skills, participate in real world applications and explore new and inventive ideas many of which will benefit society.

With its focus on collaborative innovation, the new center ultimately will prepare our students for successful careers in an ever-changing global economy. This new facility will afford much needed space for expanded activity which will also welcome members of the community as participants. And I would be remiss not to mention that the Center will be a beautiful modern addition to an already beautiful campus.

Many people have played a part in Penn State York's history and history making over the years. Don Graham is high among them. Today, we take pleasure in thanking Don for his generosity and everyone involved in this project for their visionary support. This is a wonderful day. Thank you for inviting me.

Now, I would like to introduce Holly Gumke, Director of Business Services at Penn State York who will conclude the program.