

MONICA WHITE SUNY Fredonia has a diverse student body of over fifty-five hundred students from 61 New York counties, 22 States and 13 foreign countries. To deliver greetings on behalf of these students, I am pleased to introduce Jordan Nicholson, President of the Student Association. Mr. Nicholson is a Social Studies Adolescence Education Major from Mayville and a member of the Class of 2013. He is the student representative on the College Council and a board member of the Faculty Student Association. In addition, Jordan is the longest-tenured ice hockey play-by-play announcer in Fredonia's history. Mr. Nicholson.

JORDAN NICHOLSON:Chancellor Zimpher, Dr. Horvath, members of the Platform Party, Emeriti, Faculty and Staff, Students, Alumni, and Honored Guests:

It has been written by G.K. Chesterton, that "Education is simply the soul of a society, as it passes from one generation to another." As Fredonia's leader of the next generation, it gives me great pleasure to welcome, on behalf of the students, the guardian of its current generation.

During my brief time at Fredonia, I've had the distinct honor and privilege of knowing, working, and dancing with our new President. I can confidently say, without momentary hesitation or pause, that there is not a single person I'd rather be welcoming into this position. Dr. Horvath, your warmth, your generosity, your willingness to learn and to listen, your compassion, your calmness in the face of adversity, and, yes, even simply your smile, will all be welcome additions to an institution that prides itself on camaraderie and togetherness.

Today, I stand here to affirm that the students of this institution believe in you, just as we know you believe in us. We know that led by your thoughtful stewardship, every single person who leaves here with a degree bearing your signature will be prepared for the future.

Dr. Horvath one of your priorities is an increasing internationalization of the Fredonia Experience. We applaud and support these efforts. As our international partnerships and exchange opportunities grow and develop, you will be turning Fredonia into a Global Brand. And I fully expect that before long the proud graduates of SUNY Fredonia will be spread out in greater numbers across the United States and around the world.

I'll close with a simple quote from the late President John Fitzgerald Kennedy. President Kennedy once said that, "The best time to fix the roof is when the sun is shining." I find this appropriate because the brand of our institution has never been stronger, and our future has never been brighter. Now is the ideal time for our new leader to leave her mark on this place that so many of us call home. We look forward to the tenure of our new President, Dr. Virginia Schaefer Horvath.,

Thank you Dr. Horvath for giving us another reason to feel pride in our university.