

**MONICA WHITE:** It is now my deep honor to invite to the lectern, Dr. Nancy L. Zimpher, Chancellor of the State University of New York, to conduct the ceremony of installation. A nationally recognized leader, Chancellor Zimpher is known as an effective agent of change in education. She started her career as a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse in the Ozarks and has never lost her passion for providing accessible, quality education for every student. Today, she presides over the 64 campuses of the State University of New York, which, with 465,000 students, the nation's largest comprehensive system of higher education. Dr. Zimpher.

**CHANCELLOR ZIMPHER:** I am thrilled to be here personally on this most momentous day in the history of SUNY Fredonia and I bring you greetings on the part of the State University of New York and I want to call out especially the Trustees who have joined me today. College Council members, delegates, elected officials, faculty, staff, students, alumni, distinguished guests, family and friends:

I can tell you: my highest charge and that of our Board of Trustees is to give your new president the greatest support we can possibly offer and we are here today to make that pledge to you publically and personally in the installation of Dr. Virginia Schaefer Horvath as the 13th President of the State University of New York at Fredonia.

The Board of Trustees and I are keenly aware of Dr. Horvath's scholarship, teaching, service and leadership in the field of higher education and of her **many** accomplishments these last seven years as Vice President for Academic Affairs at SUNY Fredonia. We are also quite proud that she is an alumna of a sister SUNY College.

We appreciate the excellent work of the campus search committee and the College Council, and I can tell you, hand in hand, every step of the way, what a privilege it has been to work with Mr. Frank Pagano! Frank: *[Applause]*

He and you and the search committee and the family got the job done, and I believe Ginny Horvath is uniquely qualified to lead SUNY Fredonia in the years ahead. And we believe she is the right person, for the right job, at the right time. And we all know that Dr. Horvath will stand on the broad shoulders of President Dennis Hefner. *[Applause]*

Today, Dr. Horvath will receive a symbol of her new authority, the Presidential Medallion and Chain of Office, which she will wear at campus commencements and other important ceremonial occasions. Its weight is a reminder of the heavy responsibilities *[LAUGHTER]* that must be willingly carried by all who occupy such a position of leadership. The design of the medallion, a reproduction of the University seal, is a representation of the larger community she serves, and the links of the chain, engraved with the names of all past presidents, are reminders that she is inheriting the leadership of an institution built by those who have come before her.

So with all that has been said or sung, or played, that needs to be said or sung or played, we need to get on with the show!

So I will now ask SUNY Trustees Eunice A. Lewin and Angelo Fatta to join me to assist in the presentation to Dr. Horvath of these symbols of her authority and responsibility.

And now, Dr. Virginia Schaefer Horvath, will you please step forward?

Dr. Virginia Schaefer Horvath, you have been duly selected to serve as President of the State University of New York at Fredonia. By accepting the President's medallion and chain of office, you accept the charge to serve with

diligence, dedication, energy, vision and integrity as you carry out the duties of office of President of this great institution.

We are confident that under your leadership, this institution, pursuing the highest traditions of scholarship & service, will continue its dedication to the state, the nation and the world.

Therefore, and by virtue of the authority vested in me by the State of New York, I hereby install you as the President of the State University of New York at Fredonia, and present to you, the faculty, students and friends of this campus, President Virginia Schaefer Horvath! [*APPLAUSE – STANDING OVATION*]