

6-12-1971

# Groundbreaking Ceremony Speech

Geraldine S. Williams  
*Governors State University*

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*Groundbreaking  
file*

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY  
Interoffice Memorandum

June 17, 1971

To: President Engbretson  
From: Geraldine S. Williams

Enclosed is a copy of my speech.

The opportunity to represent the faculty was an honor conferred by you that I appreciate.

I am glad that you consider the presentation creditable.

bk

Remarks  
On Behalf of the Faculty  
during  
Groundbreaking Ceremony  
Governors State University  
June 12, 1971  
by  
Geraldine S. Williams

Mister Chairman, Honorable Governor, distinguished public officials, beloved president, worthy colleagues, other honored platform guests, ladies, and gentlemen:

It is an honor and a pleasure to speak to you on behalf of the faculty of Governors State University on the occasion of the commencement of an educational venture with significant historic implications. . . . breaking the ground for erection of our physical establishment.

Today we are gathered to celebrate the birth of a University, established by the State of Illinois, the Honorable Richard B. Ogilvie, Governor. . . . conceived in response to the real needs of the total community as a modern, innovative, experimenting, open university concerning itself with individual and societal needs and values in its search for qualitative excellence in teaching/learning, research, and service.

Installed at the helm of this embryonic institution, the charismatic leadership of President William E. Engbretson has garnered from throughout the nation and abroad a faculty inspired by the challenge of this exciting educational venture, a faculty eager to avail themselves of the unique opportunity to make a contribution to the nature and character of higher education now and in years to come.

This faculty dedicates itself to the building of a TRUE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY where the individual is central, scholarship (cognitive and

affective) reigns, the search for truth is free and untrammelled, and the human conscience are protected and cultivated.

In the Academic Community, we the faculty, accept responsibility for institutional academic goal achievement. We will articulate the honorable and noble purposes for which the University stands. We will demonstrate our belief in these purposes through dedication, commitment, and involvement. We will create a climate of good will, tolerance, and a common respect for reason and reasonableness in advancing, stimulating, and inspiring students toward a quest for knowledge, and an interest in improving the quality of life for all mankind.

As today's world of drastic whirling change causes us to face demands of new experiences and new situations which in turn demand new ideas and new modes of action, we will develop new patterns of service to students; we will lessen the gaps between theory of learning and the practice of teaching; we will devise new ways of reordering and interrelating intellectual disciplines, and new modes and methods of interpreting them to learners. We will engage continually in discovery and inquiry; we will increasingly address our efforts to community needs. We will interrelate teaching, research, and service in improving educational experiences for our students and services for our community.

As Jean Jacques Rousseau has written, "The fruits of the earth belong to us all, and the earth itself to nobody." This faculty assumes responsibility and accepts its concomitant ACCOUNTABILITY for the quality of the fruits produced for harvest by Governors State University.