

October 18, 2009

ALAN HURWITZ: Wow, it's a very, very emotional time. It's truly an exciting time for me and my wife, Vicki, and my family. Thank you, Ben. Thank you, Ben. I would like to thank the Gallaudet University Board of Trustees, the search committee and the Gallaudet University community for your support and confidence in selecting me as the new president.

I would like to congratulate my close colleagues and friends, Dr. Roz Rosen, Dr. Ronald Stern and Dr. Steve Weiner for the outstanding presentations they gave during the process. They are really outstanding people and I know they will continue to contribute in significant ways to Gallaudet University. Thanks to the three of you, Roz, Ron and Steve. It's both an honor – I love those people, too – It's both an honor and a privilege to serve as the 10th president of Gallaudet University and I enthusiastically accept this appointment. I am humbled that I will yet again follow in the footsteps of Dr. Robert Davila. Please stand up, Bob – and his wonderful wife Donna. It's an honor to follow in his footsteps. He has done remarkably well over the past three years, bringing Gallaudet up to where it is today. Thank you, Bob. I am blessed with our students, faculty, staff and alumni, who are special people, really. Each of you is a scholar in your own way, and I look forward to working closely with Gallaudet University leadership teams, the Gallaudet University Board of Trustees, and the Gallaudet University community, including the faculty, staff and alumni, in order to pursue Gallaudet's long-range strategic goals. I will work with them all to review, reflect on and assess the University's Long Range Strategic Plan, to confirm, make appropriate modifications and implement our strategic priorities for the next 5 to 10 years.

My vision for Gallaudet University? First, to be the top liberal arts university with a career focus – That excites me most – educational opportunities for deaf and hard-of-hearing students to advance their education and eventually careers – a university of first choice for students – a university to be a model for bilingual and multicultural educational institutions – a wide range of individual student needs

focusing on meeting their needs – and also, finally, a center of innovation and creativity – a lot of opportunities for becoming creative – new ideas, new approaches new strategies, because Gallaudet University is a great university for deaf and hard-of-hearing students to have every opportunity to succeed in their higher education and their career pursuits.

Finally, I'd like to thank my family for their everlasting support and love. Vicki – Here's your First Lady and our children – our son Bernard and daughter Stephanie, Bernard's wife, Stacy, and Stefi's partner, Eve, and our two beautiful grandchildren, Susan Juliette and Ethan. I look forward to beginning my work with you all on January 1st. Thank you all!

[Authorized transcript.]

See also:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IKVopJ_6I