



REMARKS ON THE INSTALLATION OF JEREMY HAEFNER AS CHANCELLOR

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Congratulations to Chancellor Jeremy Haefner on his installation as DU's nineteenth Chancellor. I am here to offer just a few brief remarks about the future of DU from the faculty's perspective. We know that Chancellor Haefner will be an ambitious Chancellor. After all, he asked a law professor to confine his remarks to two minutes!

I am now (somehow) already in my thirtieth year on the faculty of the Sturm College of Law and serving under my fourth chancellor.

In that time, I have witnessed remarkable progress and achievement across all aspects of the University. I envision this next chapter to be an important one, and one in which we will all thrive together.

The faculty's two main functions – teaching and scholarship – will continue to be the mainstay of our institution's progress. Through the Office of Teaching and Learning, other institutional support mechanisms, and our outstanding staff, the University has supported the faculty's continual efforts to improve our students' learning experiences through innovative pedagogical approaches and enhanced technology. This was certainly a monumental challenge as we all worked and lived our way through the COVID pandemic.

From the scholarship standpoint, the University has made great strides in terms of research funding, number and prestige of publications, and faculty reputation. I hope we will continue to push forward and pursue a designation as an R1 university. But bringing in more dollars and enhancing our national reputation is not alone enough to make our mark as a great university. Research for the sake of creating knowledge is absolutely critical to our academic mission, but we must also continue to pursue the types of research projects that engage the community and help address the many challenging, and even existential, problems our society now faces, from climate change to protecting our democratic institutions.

Finally, the University must continue to push for increasing diversity among its faculty, staff, and students and to strongly support initiatives promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion. We will only grow as an institution if DU reflects the rich tapestry of American society and makes its very best effort to open doors to historically disadvantaged and disenfranchised communities.

I wish Chancellor Haefner the best of luck as he leads DU toward these goals and through these next phases of our institutional growth.