

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS

DEAN DUANE MEZWA RETIREMENT

August 22, 2023

- Today is a bittersweet day.
- It's bitter for us for we send off one of the best friends Oakland and OUWB has ever had....
 -but probably sweet for Duane and his family.
- And I'm personally really going to miss Duane because he's one of the only people I can call when I wake up....which can be as early as 4:30 in the morning.
- I could always depend on Duane answering my calls.
- And I have loved our conversations because we talked about things that really matter.
 - We talked about our wonderful medical students.
 - We talked about the compassionate care delivered at Corewell Health.
 - We talked about medical education, and biomedical ethics.
 - And....we talked about diversity, equity and inclusion in medicine today....and how to improve health care in these challenging times.
- Duane has been an amazing dean of OUWB.
- As the second full-time dean of OUWB, there has been no better practitioner of OUWB's kindness curriculum.
- You can find him playing billiards with students in the Student Lounge, and not hesitating to advise students on their careers . . . never failing to show the true characteristics of a compassionate physician and educator.
- And, Duane has been a strong advocate for the mental health of the students, faculty and staff by increasing resources and the number of counselors at OUWB.
- Duane personifies what we expect from of our deans....
 - He is approachable.
 - Takes great pride in being a mentor...
 - And he has the willingness to listen and understand the unique journey of each student.

- On a personal level, I have so appreciated Duane's willingness to be a team player and his support of other deans...
- He has attended every commencement ceremony for each academic unit.
- There are so many ways that Duane has left his mark – his imprint – on OUWB.
- He has been involved since the inception of the medical school.
- He has served as vice chair of the admissions committee and the student performance review committee.
- He led the school through the LCME review and its reaccreditation....
-and he played a critical role in extending OU's affiliation agreement with Corewell Health...
- Duane has made strong connections with donors, and friends of the university and medical school, some of whom are here today with us....
- ...and he has also work tirelessly to increase donor engagement by more than 300 percent.
- He played a key role in founding and fundraising for the Holocaust and Medicine program.....
- For the past two years, he accompanied students on trips to Auschwitz, a journey that transcends geography and confronts students with moral and ethical questions. It's a trip that is among the truly unique features of an OUWB medical education.
- And to further augment our students' awareness of their obligation as physicians, Duane was instrumental in establishing the Center for Moral Values in Medicine and Health, a program that is receiving national recognition.
- Duane has made an enormous contribution in raising funds for student scholarships...
- ...the result has led to doubling the amount of scholarships at OUWB since 2018....
- ...creating 18 new scholarships
- He's addressed student debt, establishing the annual OUWB golf outing to raise money for scholarships with Corewell Health as the title sponsor...
- In many ways, Duane's influence and impression are indelible at OUWB.
 - And his presence will be felt into the future.
- As an example, in May, with the philanthropic support from Corewell Health, we announced the Duane Mezwa M.D. Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine Recruitment Scholarship.
- The \$2 million endowment allows us to provide a full-ride scholarship for one medical student. After that student graduates, then another student will receive a four-year scholarship.

- The scholarship will be used to attract top candidates to OUWB.
- I would like to especially thank Dr. Ben Schwartz for his wonderful partnership and friendship....and for being instrumental in establishing the scholarship...
- ...and our thanks to Margaret Casey from the Beaumont Foundation...Margaret is here with us today.
- Last, we all know, but I want to say, that Duane's presence, kindness and contributions are now part of OUWB history....
- The true mark of a person's contribution can be measure by the extent that their presence is felt long after they have gone....
- Duane, on behalf of the entire Oakland University and OUWB community, we are grateful for all you have done for our beloved medical school...
- ...for our students...
- ...and for serving as mentor and an upstanding example of the OUWB values of integrity, compassion, and commitment to caring.
- May you always know of the kindness and love that we have for you in our hearts.