Diversity Lock-in Remarks

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• Good evening and let me just begin by saying how pleased I am that you are here and have committed your Friday evening to focus on diversity. I know this is part of our 2010 Martin Luther King celebration. Nothing could be more appropriate.

• We spend a lot of time talking about diversity. In fact, I see diversity as one of the central tenets of having a healthy university community. Our future as a healthy organization will be dependent on our ability to keep our focus on
  • Sustainability,
  • Diversity, and
  • Enhancing our Strength and Health.

• And I use the very broadest definitions of each one of those terms.

• When I speak of diversity I focus on the big “D”—diversity in its many forms, to include gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disability and others who may feel omitted or excluded from university campuses. Truly great universities must be diverse. They must be inclusive and there must be programs committed to recruiting and supporting others who may feel excluded.

• Diversity demands first that we commit to access for the broadest range of deserving students, and second, that we commit to the development of the full potential of each person we bring into our academic community.

• And when I speak of sustainability and preserving and protecting our resources, I want to always be certain that we focus on our most important resource—human
capital. We need fully realize the potential of all of our people and help that diverse population we've welcomed to our campus community achieve at the highest levels.

- Both diversity and sustaining human capital are essential to achieving the third part of our goal--having a strong and healthy community.

- This year's MLK celebration is focused on strength--"The Strength to Love." Dr. King knew, and we have learned, that our commonalities--the things we share--are our strength. And that that strength gives us the ability to respect one another and to work together as one.

- Thank you for taking time to look at those things we all have in common and to celebrate them. Have a productive and fun evening together and embrace what you learn tonight.

Thank you.