



**Address at the Investiture of Harlan Sands
at Cleveland State University**

**Given by Mark B. Rosenberg
on October 5, 2018**



Office of the President
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

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Investiture of Harlan Sands at Cleveland State University*

Universities are communities of memory and hope. This investiture of my friend, Harlan Sands is an opportunity to celebrate the purpose driven mission of this anchor institution. It is a moment to rededicate ourselves to the noble intention of public education. It is a moment to deepen our commitment to the impact that Cleveland State University has on this community, Ohio, and the United States.

Your new President, Harlan Sands, succeeds another friend – Ron Berkman. Ron’s leadership built on the strong foundation laid by Michael Schwartz. Ron – thank you for being the consummate urbanist. Thank you for your visible can-do approach to work for CSU. Your legacy is valued, your legacy is enduring your legacy is meritorious.

Today’s public urban university faces multiple urgencies. How to keep doors open to eligible students from low income zip codes who view higher education as their portal to the American dream. How to remain relevant in an era of just in time, do it yourself learning. How to address and maintain a commitment to the sensibilities of the arts and humanities while ensuring that students have the hard skills to thrive in a rapidly changing workforce. Lastly, how to rekindle the public spirit to believe in higher education; to believe in higher education at a time when many public universities and their boards are being discredited for neglecting and/or abusing their fiduciary to student well-being.

Let us understand – CSU is an institution that thousands of people depend upon. A solutions center, a beacon of goodness and grace, a social, political, and financial network center, a sanctuary from all that may be hurtful, disagreeable, and ugly. That CSU is a sanctuary for all this is uplifting and enabling.

Let us understand that everyday CSU’s faculty and staff have a unique obligation and opportunity to elevate the human spirit, to enable and inspire, and to light a pathway to a better life.

To move CSU to the next level of accomplishment, to keep it viable in a fast-moving accelerated economy, and to deepen trust in the institution by local, state and federal officials, your CSU, our CSU, will need an even deeper commitment from the hard-working students, faculty and professional staff and this university will need credible and enthusiastic leadership.

Harlan Sands is the right person to lead in these challenging times. He is an earnest student of higher education. He has paid education dues with multiple degrees and leadership at virtually every level of institutional life – public and private – and he is a business-savvy decision-maker who commands respect for his conscientious attention to the life of the mind, and its enshrinement in results-oriented institutional life that ignites confidence, accomplishment and student achievement. He has a passion for student success that is contagious.

But here is what's really important. Harlan Sands, the doer, is a dedicated family man. He really likes people. He really likes to help others. He has a very big heart and a boundless source of energy for all that he believes in, and for everyone who has the courage to do the right thing.

He is made for this presidency. With Harlan at the helm, you can rededicate yourselves confidently to public education. You can rededicate yourself to the promise of opportunity embodied in this investiture and with the meaningful work performed by the board, donors, hardworking faculty and staff you can rededicate yourself to the hope that CSU enables.

So, ladies and gentlemen, this investiture is a moment to pause, to catch our breaths, and then to move aggressively forward.

Congratulations to President Harlan Sands! Congratulations to Cleveland!
Congratulations to Cleveland State University! This is just the beginning! The best is yet to come!