

**George L. Hanbury, II, Ph.D.**  
**Nova Southeastern University's Sixth President**  
**Remarks from the Tampa Bay Campus**  
**Groundbreaking Ceremony**  
**Saturday, February 14, 2019**

Good morning! On behalf of everyone in the NSU family, welcome to the grand opening of NSU's new *Tampa Bay Regional Campus*! **Today**, we celebrate the results of what some called... an "impossible" *DREAM*. We prefer to call it, **Mission... POSSIBLE**.

It's hard to believe that just 18 months ago we broke ground on this site. Now look at it! We are immensely proud of this beautiful and state-of-the-art campus. A herculean effort by MOSS, Baker Barrios, ACAI, all of our contractors, and of course, our dedicated NSU team. It truly was work, *most extraordinary*.

A special thank you to MOSS for helping us underwrite a portion of today's celebration. We'll get into the heart of what makes this campus extraordinary a little later. Before that, I want to talk about two very special individuals — Doctors Kiran and Pallavi Patel.

The first time we met, Dr. Patel and I discovered a connection. If you take a look at the NSU university seal, you'll notice it is anchored by a sunburst. Dr. Patel told me that, in *Sanskrit*, the name "Kiran" means "ray of sunshine." Coincidence? Maybe, but we like to think there's something more to it.

I like to think that fate – *and hopefully light* – brought this visionary healthcare pioneer together with NSU... an innovative and pioneering university. Together, we have been able to realize two distinct, but correlated dreams, together.

Please, let's give a roaring round of applause for Doctors Kiran and Pallavi Patel! While Dr. Patel is the *newest* member of NSU's Board of Trustees, it takes a special TEAM to raise a university. And we have the best TEAM around. At this time, I'd like to acknowledge the Board of Trustees members who are with us here today. Please join me in giving them all a round of applause.

Here, now, before everyone, I want to express my utmost THANKS to the Doctors Patel for the generous contribution of their time, their talents, and their fortune. We look forward to a long and healthy relationship that will not only benefit NSU and them, but the communities in which we serve, and indeed the global community.

I would also like to recognize all of the public officials in attendance:

- Mayor of Tampa - Jane Castor
- Mayor of Safety Harbor - Joe Ayoub
- US congressman Gus Bilirakis
- State of Florida Representative – Fentrice Driskell
- City Manager of Clearwater - Bill Horne

We also have members of Clearwater City Council and City of Safety Harbor and Pinellas county commissions. We're so happy to have you here with us today.

And there are so many more to thank, but I do want to recognize Dr. Elaine Wallace and her team in the Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine who went above and beyond for countless months to achieve accreditation at this new site. And the entire NSU academic and operations teams for moving boulders and threading needles to ready this campus for our students.

And finally, but most importantly – for they are the reason we are here – to all of the NSU students who are advancing their lives and careers through NSU. We couldn't, and *wouldn't*, have been able to do this without you – so **thank you** for choosing NSU.

I am proud to share with you today for the first time, that this year, NSU was ranked on the FORBES Magazine Best Colleges list. That is a true testament to the hard work being done by our students, our faculty and our nearly 5,000 employees to make NSU a premier university. As we've grown our undergraduate programs over the years, we are now 30% undergraduate students, and 70% graduate and professional, like those graduate-level students who now call this campus theirs. And NSU Sharks study on 9 campuses - San Juan, Puerto Rico, Jacksonville, Orlando, Miami, Palm Beach, Miramar, Fort Myers, and of course, our beautiful campus in Fort Lauderdale.

Which brings us to why we're here today...the newest addition to the NSU family, the Tampa Bay Regional Campus. Many people don't know that we have been here in Tampa, just across the bay off I-75, for 30 years. The problem was that we outgrew that 82,000- square-foot facility and needed a new place to call home – a 311,000 square-foot, state of the art facility overlooking the beautiful Tampa Bay and as you know by now, it just would not have been done without all of the members of the Kiran C. Patel family.

That's when the dreams of Drs. Patel and NSU crossed. In addition to the D.O. medical program now being housed here in the Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine. This campus is home to a vast array of programs—Ron and Kathy Assaf College of Nursing, Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences, Abraham S. Fischler College of Education, College of Psychology – to name a few. If you noticed something missing in that list of colleges, well, so did I. We need a NAME for the College of Psychology! So, if anyone here today wants to see their name up there in blue, I'd be happy to chat with you!

All these programs have a commonality—providing SHARK students with the EDGE they need to enter the workforce as capable, confident, and caring professionals. Let us celebrate today's achievement of the “impossible” and, *together*, look forward to the, very much POSSIBLE, future!

Fins Up!