



President Dynes appears with former UC Regent and Rotarian Gail Uilkema (l) and Oakland Rotary Club President Iris Brody Lopez (r).

President Robert C. Dynes
Remarks at Oakland Rotary Club Luncheon Meeting
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I have enjoyed speaking with Rotary Clubs for the 11, almost 12 years that I've been Chancellor or President. I've enjoyed speaking with Rotary Clubs for just this reason: You're very interactive, the give-and-take is a lot of fun. So I'm going to try to be reasonably quick so that we can have a few minutes for questions. I know you all know, I hope you all know, that the headquarters of the University of California is here in Oakland. We're down at 1111 Franklin, just a few blocks down the way. But many of you may not know that the birth of the University of California was here in Oakland, literally down the street, just three or four blocks away. There is a landmark plaque on the site of a parking building now where the University of California began in 1868, California Historical Landmark 45, on the northwest corner of 13th and Franklin. So this is a special place. This is what created it all. This is what generated the engine that drives California. And so, in a few minutes, I'd like to give you a picture of my view of the University of California, of our mission and of how I see it as we go forward.

I travel around the world representing the University, and I travel around the state a lot, and I unequivocally state that the University of California is the finest university in the world. And it's true, and you can applaud if you want [*applause*]. Having made that assertion, are there any [Stanford] Cardinals in the audience? Okay, only one, so I'm in a friendly audience. I do have friends who come to me and say, "Hey, wait a minute, Bob, I'm from Harvard, what about Harvard, what about MIT, what about Princeton, what about Chicago, what about Stanford, what about Caltech, what are we, chopped liver?" And my answer is that there are two real distinctions between the University of California and those institutions. The University of California is a public institution, and all those that I listed are privates. As a public university, our mission is different than the privates. Our mission is to educate, to create new knowledge, and to deliver both those young people and that knowledge to better society. That's a different mission than the private universities.

The second difference is that we are huge by comparison, you've just heard the numbers from [former UC Regent] Gail [Uilkema]. We are 10 campuses, and each one is comparable to those other institutions. If you take all the Ivy League schools, Stanford, and Caltech, that's less than half the number of students that are at the University of California. And because we're so huge, and because each of the campuses has somewhat of a different flavor, each of the campuses has chosen where to excel, when you bring them together, there's nothing like it in the world. So as we think of the University, I think of the University really delivering to the state of California a very, very important product, and that is: the future of the state of California.

Let me give you three planks or three pictures of how I think we deliver that. The first is my belief that our mission is not R&D, you've all heard of R&D, research and development. Our mission is R, D, & D: research, development, and delivery. As a public institution, if we're sitting on a hill, staring at our navels and not delivering to society what we've learned and who we've educated, we're not doing our job. So R, D, & D is really our mission.

The second thing that I think is very important is that we must forge and we are forging strategic alliances with the entire world. California cannot be isolated from the rest of the world. In order for us to remain competitive and innovative, we must attract people from around the world, we must send our students around the world to learn the cultures of the rest of the world and come back so that we can continue to be competitive. And so we are developing strategies that deal with the rest of the world so that we can deliver to California and to you an educated group of people who are culturally competent enough to keep California in the lead. Notice I think of California as a separate country, because we are so different. We are the most creative, innovative, risk-taking, diverse society in the world. We are the society of choice. We're the end point. We are where people come, not where people go from.

The third and perhaps most important priority that I have set, and we continue to work very hard on it, attacking it full head-on with our helmets on, is the K-12 crisis in California. The University of California cannot solve it, but we can surely attack it using our strengths. I've committed to the Governor that the University of California will deliver a thousand science and math teachers a year starting in the year 2010. And we will do that ad infinitum. As I've traveled around the state, I've been shocked, as I've gone to urban schools and rural schools, I've found entire schools that have no credentialed science or math teachers, none. I couldn't believe it. We never saw it, because the University of California was taking the top 12½ percent of the California class, so we didn't see this. It wasn't until I traveled out and visited schools that I saw what an approaching calamity this is. So we've committed, and we're working hard to deliver, a thousand science and math teachers a year. And we'll do that in collaboration with the CSU, which will deliver 1,500 a year. In partnership, we will begin to help turn around K-12 in the state of California.

Let me conclude with a call to arms. I have to leave to catch a plane to Santa Barbara, so I'm going to finish up and leave a few minutes for questions and answers before President Iris [Brody Lopez] takes me off the stage. So let me finish by thanking Treasurer [Bill] Lockyer for a statement he made last month. He suggested that the way to solve the state budget crisis is to privatize the University of California. I see I got your attention. I snapped up, I almost went through the roof, and fortunately, a large fraction of the state of California almost went through the roof at the same time, because we realized we can't do that. The best investment in the future of California is an investment in higher education. And the best investment in the future, in my mind, is an investment in the University of California.

So if you agree with me that we should educate and not incarcerate, then help us make that investment in higher education for all the young people of the state of California. That's the only way, in my view, that we can continue to be the most exciting place in the world. So if I can talk you into it, in addition to going to your own Website, go to "ucforcalifornia.org" and help us by advocating to your local representatives that the University of California and higher education is the best investment in the world.

The Oakland Rotary Club and the University of California are great neighbors. We live only four or five blocks apart. I hope that we can continue to forge strong ties to make Oakland and the state of California the best place in the world.

On a final note, and on behalf of the University of California, I want to thank all the veterans as we observe Veterans Day. We wouldn't be here if it weren't for them. Thank you.