

**President Robert C. Dynes
Kids Space and Science Adventure Event for Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums' Inaugural
Chabot Space and Science Center, Oakland
January 8, 2007**



UC President Dynes introduces Oakland's new mayor, Ron Dellums, at the Chabot Space and Science Center, as part of the city's inaugural events. Joining them is Jerry Fiddler, the center's interim CEO and a member of the UC President's Advisory Board on Science and Innovation. Dynes, also a UC physics professor, gets involved in one of the classes.

Good morning, it's a pleasure to be here. I feel like I'm on vacation, coming to a place like this.

Many of you know that the headquarters of the University of California is in Oakland. My office is on Franklin Street, right in the heart of Oakland, so I am actually a citizen of Oakland, as are many of you. What you probably don't know is that the University of California, in 1855, was called the College of California and was founded in Oakland, just a few blocks away from where the University is headquartered right now.

I, and we, take pride in our roots in Oakland, and we have a special responsibility to Oakland, and that means that I have a special responsibility to you. And I'm going to talk about that a little bit today.

But first, let me tell you what my real job is. I'm the president of the University of California. It's like being the principal, a little bit. ... As principal of the University of California, my job is

to assure that the University is open for every student who is capable and able to receive an education from the University of California. That means we have to work with the school districts in order to prepare students so that they can benefit from the University of California. So we have programs called "academic preparation programs" that work in Oakland to prepare students to be competitive to come to UC.

I grew up actually not here in California. I grew up in Canada, in London, Ontario, Canada, and when I was your age, my only goal was to play professional hockey. I had no idea that I wanted to go to college. In fact, I would rather play professional hockey, and I played a pretty good brand of hockey. But I also liked to take things apart and put them back together and understand how things worked.

In high school, I got turned on by some lab experiments. And I remember going off to an observatory at the University of Western Ontario and looking through telescopes at the moon and the stars, and I remember getting excited by this stuff. And at one point, my teachers said to me, "You know, you really should go to college, you really shouldn't play professional hockey." And I went to college. Had I not gone to college, I'd probably be coaching hockey somewhere in Northern Ontario and freezing to death right now.

So let me talk to you about opportunities for going to college. It will change your life. It will literally change your life. Going to college will open up opportunities that you never could imagine. I never imagined that I'd be standing up in front of you today talking about the University of California. And they pay me to do stuff that I love to do, it's amazing, they actually pay me to work in a laboratory, to play in a laboratory. So when you come to a place like the Chabot Center, play, and try to understand what makes what happen, and you'll start developing an inquisitive mind. Prepare yourself to go to college. I don't care where you go – I'd love to see you at the University of California, but if you go somewhere else, it's okay.

But I do want to see some of you at the University of California, and I have a dream. The dream is that 10, 15 years from now, you will walk across the stage in San Diego or Davis or Berkeley or Santa Cruz and graduate from the University of California. I preside over many graduations, and the last thing I say at graduations to young people like you, or a little bit older than you, I say, "Go out and make us proud."

But let me modify that today, because I get to introduce the Mayor, who is a graduate of the University of California. So let me modify that and let me suggest that I would love to say, when you graduate from UC Berkeley or UCLA or UC Riverside or UC Merced, when you walk across the stage, I would like to say, instead of "Go out and make us proud," "Go out and be like Ron Dellums."

This man has had a lifetime of commitment and public service. He has made a huge difference in people's lives around the nation but especially here in the East Bay. And we're lucky to have him. He's a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, and he's someone I would like you to think about and aspire to be. It's my pleasure to introduce your new mayor, Mayor Ron Dellums.