

- **Thank you, Rogelio, for your kind words. As Drexel's Vice Provost for Global Engagement you have done a magnificent job.**

- **Good evening, everyone. I am so happy to be here. It is a great honor and privilege for Drexel to partner with the Consular Corps Association of Philadelphia, and we especially**
 - **cherish our relationships with all of you during these perilous times.**

- **I also want to recognize Peter Longstreth for his leadership of the Consular Corps, just the latest chapter in a lifetime of professional achievement, leadership, and service.**
 - **Peter, thank you for gathering us together at the Arlen Specter U.S. Squash Center.**

- **Along with my Drexel colleagues and our partners at U.S. Squash, I relish every opportunity to show off this beautiful facility – which will help to grow a beautiful game already played by 20 million people worldwide. [] []**

- **I will describe Drexel's international work in a moment.**

- **But first, I want to recognize Honorary Consul Iryna Mazur and join the Corps in conveying our profound admiration**
 - **and steadfast support for the heroic people**
 - **and leadership of Ukraine.**
- **Against great odds, they have exceeded even the most optimistic expectations in defending their country against the invading Russian military.**
- **Still, the scale of devastation, suffering and displacement in Ukraine has been horrific. And the worst could be yet to come if Vladimir Putin turns to chemical, biological, or nuclear warfare.**
- **Let's pray it does not come to that.**
- **Many of us know someone well who has been deeply affected by the invasion.**
- **The war has certainly hit close to home for Drexel: One of our star women's collegiate squash players --- Alina Bushma -- is a computing and technology security major from Kyiv.**

- **She texts with her family and friends back in Ukraine every day, and keeps abreast of the news from Ukraine.**
- **Understandably, Alina is constantly worried about her family and country. But she turns those emotions into**
 - **motivation to excel in her studies and to play for her**
 - **family and country every time she takes the court.**
- **And boy, did Alina deliver on the sport's biggest collegiate stage last month: She won the deciding match against**
 - **the heavily favored #2 seed Trinity College, which sent**
 - **Drexel to the national championship final**
 - **against Harvard. [] []**
- **Now: Russia's war in Ukraine has created a global crisis that adds to the long list of crises and problems threatening humanity's health, security, and future.**
- **But higher education can do something about it. Universities like Drexel have the talent, expertise, resources, and burning desire to help solve these problems.**

- **The question for higher education is, how can our great colleges and universities marshal their collective assets more effectively toward solving these problems?**
- **In other words, how can we have a greater impact in the fight towards making the world a better place?**
- **I can only speak from observation and experience. But I find that universities that achieve the greatest global impact have three features in common:**
- **They welcome talented students and scholars from all over the world.**
- **They make it easier for their faculty and students to engage and collaborate with their peers and communities abroad.**
- **And they embrace partnership as a powerful catalyst for innovation that delivers maximum global impact.**
- **Traditionally, American universities have partnered with universities abroad both on visiting exchange programs for students and scholars, and on joint research ventures.**

- **Drexel is no exception. [] We enjoy thriving exchange programs and collaborative partnerships with universities all over the world.**
- **Over the past decade, we have collaborated on groundbreaking education and research in functional fabrics, immune and cell engineering, materials science**
 - **and environmental science --- all with leading**
 - **universities in many countries, including India,**
 - **Israel, China, Germany, South Africa, Brazil, Italy,**
 - **and South Korea.**
- **Transnational academic partnerships also help us put our knowledge and teaching to work in the battle against climate change.**
- **For example, Drexel faculty joined their counterparts at the National University of Equatorial Guinea to form a scientific research partnership to protect the country's natural spaces**
 - **and rich biodiversity that are threatened**
 - **by deforestation, hunting, and climate change. []**
 - **Endangered species include primates,**
 - **nesting marine turtles, forest elephants,**
 - **and leopards.**

- **Led by Biology Professor Katy Gonder, this partnership program offers Drexel students unparalleled learning opportunities to work on conservation efforts,**
 - **environmental research,**
 - **and self-sustaining ecotourism.**
- **I am also excited by a collaborative research endeavor in regenerative medicine led by Drexel Biomedical Engineering Professor Kara Spiller.**
- **Kara is a native Philadelphian and proud Drexel alumna who earned her all her degrees here. She and her students use**
 - **chemistry and materials science approaches to design**
 - **therapies to promote tissue regeneration by taking**
 - **advantage of the body's natural ability to heal**
 - **through its inflammatory responses.**
- **Kara requires all her students to conduct part of their research in other countries, such as China, Australia, Israel, and the Netherlands.**

- **She does that for the same reason she did when she worked as a doctoral student with tissue engineering researchers at Shanghai Jiao Tong University: to learn firsthand**
 - **how major discoveries are made when people**
 - **from diverse backgrounds come together as a team**
 - **to solve the world's problems.**
- **Kara and her students are in the vanguard of a new field called Immune Engineering. They are also part of a global collaborative research effort that shows great promise**
 - **in bringing lifesaving and life-enhancing treatments**
 - **to people – especially older people –**
 - **throughout the world. [] []**
- **Now, I have mentioned two exciting examples of global engagement and partnerships between Drexel and universities abroad.**
- **But I believe that universities that want to be more effective and successful in solving the world's problems must also pursue partnerships beyond academe.**

- **Through our Dana and David Dornsife School of Public Health, for example, we are partnering with World Vision,**
 - **an organization that brings clean drinking water**
 - **and modern sanitation practices to countries**
 - **in sub-Sahara Africa and beyond.**

- **We provide training for their leaders through various programs we have here at the University to make their work as effective as can be. In turn, Drexel students**
 - **across all majors and educational levels spend**
 - **up to six months in rural Africa learning from**
 - **World Vision professionals and the communities**
 - **they serve. [] []**

- **I will share one more partnership example – this time a model of a global partnership that our Drexel Solutions Institute facilitated with a corporation that brings multi-disciplinary research to bear on serving local communities.**

- **In this case, the corporation --- FMC, an international agricultural sciences company headquartered right here in University City --- is partnering with Drexel to study**
 - **the health impact and community attitudes**
 - **toward its clean water project in India.**

- **A team of experts from FMC and Drexel’s Dornsife School of Public Health, our LeBow College of Business, our College of Arts and Sciences, and the Academy of Natural Sciences are on the ground in India.**
- **They are partnering with an NGO named Community Pure Water and a local research agency in India to install reverse-osmosis water-filtration plants over several years.**
- **Through ongoing community needs assessments and analysis of health and socioeconomic conditions in targeted villages, this project has the potential to promote**
 - **sustainable development in rural India –**
 - **and perhaps lead to more innovative clean water**
 - **initiatives throughout the world. [] [] []**
- **There is a quote attributed to Benjamin Franklin that I love: “A man wrapped up in himself makes a very small bundle.”**
- **Universities, like individuals, can choose to remain even formidable bundles unto themselves and deploy all their assets toward their teaching and research purposes.**

- **But if they want to fulfill their mission as a public good and step up to help solve the world's problems, universities need to encourage more multi-disciplinary collaboration --- both internally and externally.**
- **And they need to partner with businesses, organizations, and governments that share their commitment to Sustainable Development Goals.**
- **Here at Drexel, we are eager to continue expanding our network of global relationships and partnerships wherever our mutual strengths, values, and objectives can align to accomplish the greatest good.**
- **We especially would love to have you, the members of the Consular Corps of Philadelphia, introduce us to potential academic, business, and nonprofit partners in the countries you represent.**
- **If you have any suggestions, or leads to share with us, please reach out to me or to Rogelio, and we will be grateful and happy to follow up.**

- **By encouraging more collaboration across disciplines and cultivating more partnerships with other universities, companies, NGOs, and others, universities like Drexel**
 - **not only can become a greater force for progress**
 - **and good in the world – they will also produce**
 - **better research and prepare more capable leaders**
 - **for the future.**

- **Universities have the means to have a greater impact in solving the world's problems.**

- **If more of them follow Drexel's example, I believe that many seemingly intractable problems will finally be solved.**

- **Thank you.**