Welcome to our annual Faculty Recognition event, a time when we acknowledge and honor exceptional achievements of our faculty members.

After the past year of remote learning, social distancing and virtual meetings, I think we're all longing for some type of recognition whereby we feel the deep connection of being part of a mission-driven, learning community.

In today's climate of competing priorities, deadlines and crowded schedules, we often do not take the time to recognize the amazing work of our colleagues.

Today, however, we <u>are</u> taking the time....

And what do we see?

Intellectual diversity, teaching excellence, impactful research and the many unique talents and contributions of Oakland University faculty who are the backbone of our great academic tradition ... and the people who give us many reasons to be so optimistic about our future.

This past year taught us a valuable lesson, and that lesson is that we're all connected.

While the faculty we recognize today are distinguished by their academic accomplishments, perhaps their impact on students is among their greatest influence.

These faculty members we honor play a vital role in shaping the profile and reputation of Oakland University... an impact that we measure one student at a time.

Through their teaching, scholarship, creativity, research and community engagement, they are collectively at the heart of making Oakland University a more diverse, inclusive and engaging learning community.

On behalf of Oakland University, I extend my gratitude for your dedication and inspiring all of us to reach higher.

We are so deeply appreciative of your talents, and we rightly recognize you today.