

Mayor Rothschild's Remarks at UA President Dr. Ann Weaver Hart's Inauguration
– November 30, 2012

Dr. Hart, today is your inaugural, but Tucson has already embraced you as part of our community and as leader of this great university.

Like Tucson, the University of Arizona is special, and unique. We are diverse in every sense of the word. Both this university and this city embrace our differences as a source of strength.

Where there is only one side, one point of view, you cannot have rigorous intellectual debate. Without the opportunity to test and refine your ideas, your notions of the world, you cannot really be said to have had an education.

Dr. Hart, I know, understands this. We have spoken about ways the City and the University can work together, on issues ranging from downtown development to the streetcar to tech transfer.

I've expressed my pride, as Mayor, in having this great university as the premiere asset of our city.

But in our discussions there were things we did not need to talk about. Academic freedom, excellence, leadership – these are simply a given with Dr. Hart, whose doctorate is in educational administration and whose own research examines these very subjects.

All this bodes well for the University and the city it calls home.

Dr. Hart has another quality Tucsonans greatly admire. She is a trailblazer. The first woman to serve as President of the University of Arizona, Dr. Hart was also the first woman to serve as President of Temple University.

You will be happy to know that you are in the hometown of the first woman elected to Congress in Arizona – Isabella Greenway – and the third woman elected to Congress in Arizona – Gabrielle Giffords. In Tucson, we like our glass ceilings broken. Thank you and congratulations, Dr. Hart, for breaking this one.

I am excited to see the energy, the direction of your administration, as you work to establish priorities and build consensus around goals – academic and institutional. You know that you will be working with partners inside and outside the University. Building relationships will be the order of the day, with faculty, staff, students and alumni in the University community, and with all levels of government and industry in the world at large. You are more than up to the task. I want you to know you have a trusted partner in our municipal government and the Mayor's Office. In many ways, our fortunes are tied together. This university, this city, this region – we rise or fall together.

Your inaugural falls almost one year from my own inauguration as Mayor. I've learned a lot about our city in that year. You will as well. But one thing did not change for me and it will not change for you – facing each day with deep appreciation for the trust that has been placed in you and eager enthusiasm for the work ahead.

Dr. Hart, as Mayor, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Tucson. You have my and our city's best wishes for success.