Good evening everyone and welcome to our “Global Reception for Good Health “

I want to first thank the Foundation, ORMC administration, and our phenomenal Dept. of Medical Education for their support of our academic teaching programs.

We thank our amazing medical school partner, TouroCOM, and its Executive Dean and Friend, Dr. Ken Steier, with whom we share a parallel vision to produce the best, brightest and most empathic healing physicians anywhere in the country. Of course we wouldn’t be here without the program leaders and those that teach.

We warmly thank and express our appreciation to the over 160 preceptors core and non-core faculty for selflessly giving of their time and heart to help produce the next generation of doctors to serve our region and beyond.

You are the ‘Foundation’ that allowed us to transform from a community hospital to what is now becoming a formidable teaching hospital and in time what WILL become a nationally recognized top academic medical center.

Almost a decade ago, a few of us vetted the impact of medical education to our region and determined we “were sitting on potential gold” not primarily in the economic sense but in the “greater good sense”. The climate was right and this represented the perfect storm for opportunity.

Many of our neighboring regions had terrible health indicators, challenged economics and limited opportunities in medical education. Together with a few people in this room and others not here a medical college was born; not only a medical college but a school that embraces the mission of increasing medical delivery to traditionally neglected and underserved areas. It’s typical class is very pluralistic and represents America at its best. Tourocom just graduated 120 doctors last year.

The medical school phase of training to become a physician is called undergraduate medical education and as you all know after an excellent medical school education one must complete a residency in order to start traditional practice.

In order to complete the educational hierarchy to serve our region and beyond we here at Orange Regional Medical Center opened six residency programs.

We currently host well over 100 residents in 6 residencies including internal medicine, family medicine, general surgery, psychiatry, emergency medicine and transitional rotating internship. Our graduate medical education programs are extremely sought after, particularly considering their youth. We had well over 5000 applications for 39 positions.

For the most part up until now our mindset has been somewhat of a local one. We traditionally view these programs as improving regional health indicators, helping local economies,
providing educational opportunities not available in the Hudson Valley and serving as a farm team for future physicians.

We also champion the local aspect that people that grow up here can go to school, train for a medical profession here, and then stay on to serve their community recycling our demographic and keeping our best and brightest, decreasing the so-called brain drain. Dr. Morcos was our first graduate of our Family Medicine Program and both he and his fellow resident stayed to serve the region; Dr. Morcos (video) in Sullivan County and Dr. Arias in the Newburgh area. So as you can see clearly our mindset has been acting locally but as the business paradigm suggests we are also thinking globally.

And the key to thinking globally and extending our footprint beyond your doorstep is Research and Scholarly Activity which brings academic teaching hospitals to the next level.

Scholarly activity in our trainees, authoring publications, presenting at national conferences, co-authoring journal reviews and book chapters, and being involved in instrumental research endeavors that will not only help change the region but may help change the world.

Research endeavors that will bring international recognition and grant money and support to our institution so we know longer just think globally but in time act globally for the greater good.

Our graduating doctors and their research endeavors may not just save a life in Monticello, Wallkill, and Newburgh, but may save a life in Wisconsin, Los Angeles, the Indian reservations of South Dakota or even save lives in struggling developing nations abroad.

Your donated dollars help support our trainees in every way including support for manuscripts, conference presentations, and development of infrastructure for research.

Please know that the state of scholarly activity in Orange Regional Medical Center is strong. The institution has hired a research director with extensive experience including involvement in grant writing for the Department of Defense, the NIH, and the CDC.

We have projects involving emergency medicine, dementia, cardiology, osteoporosis, TB Diseases, disparities in health care and much more. And other beautiful things too---due to an incredible generous donation, we recently sent 14 people from this medical center including faculty, residents and other administrators to the Cleveland Clinic for an empathy training program as directed by the anonymous donor. Perhaps that donation was born out of a bad experience by the donor but nonetheless this gift will be invaluable in instilling the characteristics of compassion and empathy in all of our graduating physicians.

So once again thanks to all of you for joining us tonight, Thanks to Tom Guarino for his vision in allowing us to start this education foundation, and thanks for all of you for giving from your heart and pockets to support our work. The collective will of the Department of Education has
committed to not just being a teaching hospital but to become the best academic medical center between New York City and Albany. Quality clinical education as well as aggressive programs in scholarly activity and research are necessary to accomplish this goal and I'm confident through your support we will get there.

Those that know me know how truly proud I am of this program and everyone involved in it. Nothing will convince you more than hearing it firsthand from our residents and preceptors that we recently captured on the following video. So let’s roll the video.