Indeed, the University of Louisville has a rich history and tradition dating back to 1798, when it was stated by the members of the city’s founding families that Louisville should be ‘a place of some consequence’ by having a center of advanced learning. Who could have imagined in 1798 the ‘place of consequence’ dreamed of then is what we enjoy today?"
"We must address head-on those in Congress who suggest that higher education is ‘in crisis.’ We must address head-on those in the executive branch of the federal government who say that in the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act the administration must be ‘hard’ on colleges and universities. We must address head-on comments from business leaders in our own community who say we are not accountable, that our governance system is flawed, that we are not a funding priority. To address those who doubt us, we must embrace and recommit ourselves—head-on—to the mandate, the challenge, given to us by the Kentucky General Assembly: ‘to become a preeminent, nationally recognized metropolitan research university that is part of a seamless, integrated system of postsecondary education’ in our state."

"The late Charles Kuralt referred to the University of North Carolina as the ‘people’s university.’ We, too, are the ‘people’s university’—a citizen university—so improving the lives of our citizens is our job; it is our responsibility."

"May it be said in the future that despite the challenges we faced in 2003, we did not back off, we did not retreat. Rather we hitched up our belts and did our jobs—to make a better Kentucky. … It is an important job, it is important to me, for I was born in this community, educated in our public schools in Kentucky, and I believe in Kentucky and its people and all that they can be."

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