

Dear Members of the Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees, President Hans, fellow faculty members, staff, students, esteemed guests:

I am Purificación Martínez, and as Chair of the Faculty and on their behalf, it is an honor and a privilege to welcome you to East Carolina University to celebrate our one hundred fifteenth birthday and the installation of our twelfth chancellor. If weather permits, I encourage you to take a walk through our beautiful campus after lunch. May I suggest that before you leave town, you visit our Health Sciences facilities? We want you to appreciate, through our architecture, how ECU remains tied to its mission: serving Eastern North Carolina. Our old buildings, scarred [escarrd] as they might be, even in their names, speak of our wish to educate a region that continues to be impoverished. Our new state of the art buildings are a

testimony that to do so, we are passionately committed to innovative [innovéitive] research and pedagogy.

Dr. Rogers is an embodiment of this necessary mix of tradition and innovation. No one who grows up in Greenville is blind to what ECU means to this city and this region in educational, cultural, and economic terms. Someone who has worked closely with the most prominent national leaders in higher education today is well equipped to articulate to you and the public our achievements and our needs to become even better. We know that Chancellor Rogers has and will continue to represent us well.

The only person in this room who does not need a special welcome today is Dr. Rogers himself. The faculty already did that almost immediately after his announcement as Chancellor

elect, in the Faculty Senate meeting of January 2021. After a few tumultuous years when our name was on display all over the media for reasons that had nothing to do with our work or our students' accomplishments, the ECU community was hungry for stable leadership. However, in the wonderful and messy world that is higher education, stable leadership at the Chancellor's level is just one of the three legs of the governance stool. The other two, all of you know well, are the Board of Trustees and the faculty. Recently, in a meeting that reflects this commitment to stability that I have just mentioned, Chair of Trustees Shook, Chancellor Rogers and I met to talk about how we can work together to move ECU forward. We are aware of our different roles and responsibilities. We know that we might not always agree with each other. But our love for this place, mutual respect, fluid communication and

transparency are great pillars [pílar] to begin this new chancellorship.

I have thought a long time about what my final words of wisdom would be to Chancellor Rogers and all of us on this momentous occasion. I found them, as is my usual way, in a book. In the invented language of Sara Allen, a brave Little Red Riding Hood in the delightful *Caperucita en Manhattan* by Carmen Martín Gaité, “miranfú” means “something new is going to happen and I am going to be surprised.” As Sara jumps into the adventure of a lifetime leaving behind her boring and predictable world, ready for wonder and growth, she screams “miranfú.” Chancellor Rogers: “miranfú”, Chair Shook: “miranfú”. Let’s jump into our common adventure: making ECU and our region prosper.

Chancellor Rogers, bienvenido.

Please welcome Aisha Powell, Chair of the Staff Senate, who will bring greetings on behalf of the ECU Staff.