

**REMARKS
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NIAGARA UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PRESS CONFERENCE
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A year ago last May, Niagara University embarked on the largest fundraising campaign in its 152-year history. We knew it was an ambitious undertaking, but we also knew it was an essential one if we are to continue the wonderful transition taking place in teaching and learning on this campus.

As you know, we have had some successes in our efforts to raise money for essential capital improvements, for endowed professorships and academic programs, for scholarships and for other unrestricted uses. The new Academic Complex is evidence of the progress that has been made in improving our facilities.

We know that a great deal more needs to be done, and that is why I am absolutely thrilled today to announce that the campaign, “The Promise of Niagara,” has received the largest gift in the long and distinguished history of Niagara University.

B. Thomas Golisano, a businessman and philanthropist perhaps best known to Western New Yorkers as the owner of the Buffalo Sabres, has committed \$10 million to support construction of a new interdisciplinary science building, a facility that will radically alter the teaching and research environment on our campus.

I am equally delighted to announce that this unprecedented act of generosity will forever be acknowledged in the name of the building, which will be called the B. Thomas Golisano Center for Integrated Sciences.

On behalf of the university, Tom, on behalf of our trustees and administration and our students, faculty, staff and friends, I offer you a profound thank-you. Thank you, a thousand times thank you.

I want to say, Tom, that I am not only thrilled and delighted by your extreme generosity, but I am also humbled by it. Clearly, the support you are providing for the science building is an expression of great confidence in the direction our program is taking. But your gift also represents a major investment in the future of Western New York, a future that Niagara University will help to shape, with your assistance, through the contributions of our students and through the research that will take place here.

In addition, it will provide much-needed employment for workers in the construction industry, further boosting the economy of our area as another wonderful project takes shape on our campus.

Bio-technology and bioinformatics have been identified as potentially vital new industries for our region, and Niagara University intends to be a player in their growth and development. In fact, we are already a player through the various partnerships we have developed with those involved in the sciences. Now, those partnerships will only proliferate and grow stronger

So thank you, Tom, for your generosity, thank you for this wonderful commitment of financial support, thank you for the confidence you have demonstrated in our plans for developing our science programs, thank you for your belief in the values-centered educational experience we provide for our students.

Our campaign has come a long way in the last year and a half. Your gift has provided tremendous impetus toward achieving our \$80 million goal, pushing our fundraising efforts past the \$50 million mark. The campaign seeks to raise \$16.5 million toward the total cost of the \$25 million science center, so your commitment of \$10 million is a significant step toward what we have to raise to proceed with construction. Our hope and prayer is that your incredible generosity will inspire others to support us in our quest to fulfill "The Promise of Niagara."

God willing, we will begin the project as soon as additional funding is in place, with the expectation that the B. Thomas Golisano Center for

Integrated Sciences will be completed by the fall of 2011. One thing for certain is that the two-story, 44,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility will be a wonderful addition to our campus.

Earlier, I said that Tom probably is best known in this area as the owner of the Buffalo Sabres. Many of you may also know, as I mentioned earlier, that he is the founder and current chairman of Paychex, an immensely successful company that provides payroll, human resources, and benefit-outsourcing services to businesses.

Some of you may not be aware of the extent of his philanthropic interests. Since the late 1990s, Tom's personal contributions to educational institutions, hospitals and other organizations, mostly in the Rochester area, have totaled more than \$100 million. In addition, he maintains a foundation that is dedicated to providing opportunities and support for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Tom has lived the Vincentian mission of serving those among us who are most in need. In a sense, we are soul mates. At Niagara, a Vincentian university, we follow the example of St. Vincent de Paul, the universal patron of charity. We seek to inspire our students to serve all members of society, especially those who are poor and oppressed. So thank you, Tom, for your inspiring example of Christian charity in all that you do for others, especially those who are in great need of love and support.

It is with great respect and appreciation that I welcome you, with open arms, into the Vincentian family of Niagara University.

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