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**Clinton Global Initiative University 2008 Meeting
Closing Plenary
Clinton Global Initiative University
March 15, 2008**

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[START RECORDING]

[Video playing] [Music playing]

FEMALE SPEAKER: Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the 42nd President of the United States, William Jefferson Clinton. [Applause] [Music playing]

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, first welcome, all of you to this first closing plenary session of CGI U. The students who have been participating, and others, are here on the floor.

There are lots of people, however, in this crowd who were not here [earlier] today. So let [me] just briefly tell you what we've been doing. This is the first meeting of the university-based part of the Clinton Global Initiative, which began three years ago as an effort to bring together, at the opening of the United Nations, people from all over the world who are involved in trying to do public good as private citizens; people in the burgeoning non-governmental movement, along with political leaders, business leaders, philanthropists and others who are interested in supporting their efforts.

And we had an interesting idea, that we could get together and discuss some of the major problems facing the world. In the case of this meeting, climate change, global poverty, global health care crisis, the problems of people being oppressed without human rights and without even the

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essentials of peace, and that at the end of this process every person who is at the meeting would make a commitment to actually do something about it. Even at CGI, where we had some very wealthy people, there was no requirement of how much money you had to spend or how much time you had to give or what kind of skill you had to bring to bear. But everybody had to promise to do something.

In three years, we've had over 1000 commitments affecting 100 countries that have the potential to improve the lives of more than 180 million people. And they've been worth tens of billions of dollars. But in the process of doing that, all of us who were involved in this project became struck by how much energy we had coming every year into CGI from younger people. And also I became impressed, as I traveled around America, by how many college campuses were hotbeds of citizen service in hundreds of different ways.

So we thought, what if we did one of these meetings only for college students from around America? We frankly had no earthly idea, as you often don't when we start something like this, how many people would want to participate and what would happen. We did know that we wanted to do this first meeting in New Orleans because there is so much citizen service going on here and because there is so much still to be done here to totally reconstruct this great city which is so

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important to our country's history and to its future.

[Applause]

So, we have here_for those who have not been here—we have almost 700 students participating, and many college and university presidents. The students who are present here come from every different conceivable racial, ethnic and religious group in America and around the world. There are people here from 40 states and from 15 other nations, and we welcome them all.

In the process of doing this, we have been announcing for those of you who haven't been here, at every meeting the commitments that have already been formed and made. So I want to acknowledge the last two specific commitments that we will acknowledge today, and then I want to recognize Margaret McKinnon, the President of the Wal-Mart foundation, who has a very special announcement to make.

But first let me ask the last two people we are going to recognize. We do this, for those of you who haven't been part of it, partly to recognize those who've made a commitment and partly to remind those who haven't that there's still time. So, the first commitment involves a remarkable group of people from Rice University in Houston. I'd like to ask Elaine Jenna Hook, David Lee Ron, Rebecca Richards Courtland, who is the

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Chair of the Department of Bioengineering, to come up here and I'll tell you about their commitment.

You might be able to see that Jeannie and Jenna are undergraduates at Rice, and David is the President of Rice University who had me at his school not very long ago. I'm delighted to see him and all of them. Their commitment is to build upon the commitment Rice made at the 2007 Clinton Global Initiative last September to advance global health technologies in education. Jenna and Jeannie will build medical backpacks for nomadic rural doctors in sub-Saharan Africa. This is really important, because so many people who are willing to go and help people don't have the materials to do the job.

Their commitment will customize and prepare medical diagnostic backpacks for three doctors working with the Pediatric AIDS Corps in Tanzania, Botswana and Malawi, countries in which our foundation is privileged to work. These backpacks will be based on the diseases that are typically diagnosed in each country.

In a separate commitment, Jenna will work with Jeannie's team to develop a backpack to bring with her to the Tsutu, where she will be shadowing doctors to test the efficiency of the lab in a backpack project to provide portable diagnostic tools that physicians can use as they visit rural communities and remote villages. 90 percent of Africa's

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population lives in areas where there are fewer than five doctors for 10,000 people. And by learning more about how these backpacks can be effectively used in the developing world, these commitments have the potential to help doctors reach more patients and save more lives.

Let me just say, generally, to those of you who are interested in this, the world has responded in the last five years or so in a remarkable way to the global AIDS crisis. Our foundation's AIDS project has now 1.2 million people receiving life-saving medicine, and we are exploding the number of children that are getting pediatric AIDS medicine. More and more, this medicine is available at affordable prices.

But as we do this, we realize that we're running the risk of creating a total imbalance of global health, where we're doing a great job on AIDS and maybe not quite so well on malaria. Are we overlooking tuberculosis in the countries where there's a coincidence of that? Then there's a whole raft of other tropical diseases of which there's almost no money, and which can be treated at very low cost per person if proper diagnosis is done in a timely fashion. So, our foundation has found out [that] we're basically winding up using AIDS as an excuse, if you will, or a leader, to build up whole health systems in 25 countries. [Applause]

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But one of the real problems—let me finish—to talk about what they're doing, one of the real problems we have now, and about the only barrier to reaching 100 percent of the people who need AIDS medicine to stay alive, is that the delivery systems aren't there. And it's only so fast [that] you can build centralized hospitals, satellite clinics. And even if you do all of that, you have to have trained doctors, nurses and paramedics to reach the whole rest of the population.

In the Tsutu, where you're going to check the viability of this, for example, one full third of the people live in areas that can only be reached on foot or with animals that will not fall off very steep mountain pathways. So the potential of this to save lives is really quite staggering, and I think we should all be very grateful to these fine people from Rice for what they're doing. Let's give them a hand.

Now, our final commitment involves Dr. Rich Simmons, the president of Brown University and a graduate of Dillard University of New Orleans, and Marvalene Hughes, the president of Dillard University in this great city. I'd like to ask them to come up. [Applause] These are the Brown students, taking care of their own, here.

I said earlier today at our luncheon for university presidents that Marvalene Hughes should be eligible for some sort of medal for valor because she left California to come

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here, because California has wildfires, earthquakes, tornadoes, everything. And her timing was so great, she arrived to take over the helm at Dillard one month before Katrina. Undeterred—I'll never forget the first time I met her, and we were having a meeting of the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund on what she needed. She said, "What do I need? You've got to make the whole thing over again! I just got here!"

But she has really been brave and spunky and I've been grateful to her, and of course to Rich Simmons, one of the great educational leaders of America. Their commitment is to expand the Brown-Princeton-Dillard partnership by now focusing on efforts to make Dillard University a sustainable campus, to work to green the Dillard campus facilities and further sustainability research and education.

After Katrina hit, Brown assisted Dillard's recovery by donating research equipment and helping to rebuild the library collections. Brown now commits to help develop campus and community projects beginning with a campus-wide recycling program and to examine opportunities to make the transportation and dining options more eco-friendly. They will also collaborate to improve the educational research opportunities relating to sustainability.

This will have a direct impact on Dillard's 1100 students and the New Orleans community at large. And I should

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say that campuses are ideal settings to develop these kinds of strategies, systems, and technologies to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions that then can be scaled up to embrace the entire community and eventually whole states.

Our foundation works with university and college presidents around America to do this, and if you think about it, this is an interesting little fact: 6 percent of all of America's greenhouse gases are generated on college and university campuses. Because they are big businesses, and a lot of their research activities are fairly energy intense. But there's a higher percentage of people on those campuses who understand global warming and understand the options to generate a new and very different and, ultimately, more prosperous and more fair economy by building sustainable campuses than on any other group of structures in the entire United States, perhaps the entire world.

So I hope that what Brown and Dillard are doing will be followed by every single campus on this country. There's really no excuse. We should have a goal of making every campus in America completely carbon neutral. And we could do it. And they can help us. [Applause] So, let's give them a hand. [Applause] These two sisters have been through a lot together, and they're going to do more.

FEMALE SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you Mr. President.

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PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON: Now, I'd like to acknowledge Margaret McKenna, the president of the Wal-Mart Foundation and former president of Lesley University for 20 years, where she grew the university from 2000 to 12,000 students. Margaret, stand up. Where are you? There she is. Let's give her a hand.
[Applause]

I want to explain this commitment. And this is one thing we were really worried about when we started this. At the regular Global Initiative, we have a full time, year-round commitments office. And they work all yearlong trying to help people who are trying to develop commitments to develop things that are meaningful, that will make a difference, and also to try to help people who come to us and say look, I want to give money to something good, and I'm interested in human rights in Darfur. Or I'm interested in global poverty, but I don't have a clue. I've got \$100,000 and I don't have a clue what I can do to get the highest rate of return for this. Help me find a partner.

So we try to match partners with commitments. And we didn't have anything comparable for this. So to ensure that the commitments today reach as many people as possible, the Wal-Mart foundation, which Margaret McKenna now runs, has offered to award \$500,000 to 35 students and two universities to fund their commitments.

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Every student and university here is eligible for the award. So if you have a commitment that you have made here that is presently unfunded, you should apply for help. We will announce it in August after seeing what kind of progress has been made in the first six months on all these commitments. And we also want to give students who weren't able to make it to New Orleans a chance to make their own commitments to be considered. So thank you very, very much, Margaret. Let's give her a hand. [Applause]

In view of my advancing age, they make me a list of everything I'm supposed to say. I want to make sure I haven't forgotten anything. I want now, since this is basically an event for, and in large measure by, the students, I want to recognize a couple of students and give them a chance to just say a few words about their experience. First, a student from the University of Chicago, James McKinney. James, would you like to come up here? Where are you? Come on up. Come up here where I can see you. Yes, come on. Let's bring him up here where they can see him.

JAMES MCKINNEY: Well, Mr. President, my name is James McKinney, I'm from Forest City and I'm currently attending the University of Chicago, [as] an Econ major. And I came here this weekend with the question of how I could do my part to combat global poverty. So this morning I attended the general working

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session on poverty alleviation and I believe we may have found a solution or two to address the problem. [Laughter]

This weekend alone, one amazing commitment was made to fund construction of schools in Lebanon that would give children there books instead of guns. And- [applause] to do my part, I've committed to volunteering my time to helping inner city youth in Chicago achieve their dreams of attending college by giving them test prep and workshops on applying to college and the collegiate process. So I think that's my time. I'm going to introduce my friend Avram Adotaho [misspelled?] and she's going to come up and give you [inaudible]. [Laughter]

AVRAM ADOTAHO: Thank you, James. Well, Mr. President, as James mentioned, my name is Avram Adotoho. I am originally from a country named Ghana, West Africa, and I'm a fourth year political science major at the University of Florida. This weekend I had the privilege of attending the human rights and peace working group session.

I also had the opportunity to participate in the meet-up today, and I think that one thing that the students and I would agree [on] is that it was the stories of others who had taken the time and energy to effect change within their spheres that inspired and motivated us to even begin to think about commitments to action. And I think that the stories that my fellow students and I shared with each other have now

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encouraged us as we continue in our efforts to affect change in our globe.

Mr. President, the meet-up and everything else that we experienced here this weekend was wonderful, and I think I speak for all the students that attended CGI U when I say that you can expect wonderful things from our generation. Thank you.
[Applause]

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON: Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you. I would like to again thank Dr. Scott Cowan and the faculty and the staff and the students of Tulane for opening the campus. Let's give them all a big hand. [Applause] And I want to thank Bob Harrison who runs our CGI project, Ami Desai and our Foundation Office, the CGI U staff and the volunteers for pulling all this together. An enormous amount of work went into getting everybody here this weekend, and I think we ought to give all of our volunteers a hand. They work hard.
[Applause]

I want to thank the moderators and the panelists and especially the university presidents for coming. It was very interesting. Someone told me that they had been talking to a group of the students who were here and they were asked, well, if you go back home and you want your school to really emphasize this, what's the most important thing that the leadership of the schools could do? Is it money, is it credit,

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is it whatever? And without exception, most of the young people said, "No, the most [important] thing is the president could come and endorse what we're doing and stand behind it and support it and be involved in it." And these presidents that are here are clearly doing that. So I thank them and I think we should give them a hand. [Applause]

And then we have people who are coming just for tonight from New Orleans and the tri-state area. I thank you for coming and I hope that maybe this will give you ideas of some things you can do around here. But most of all I want to thank the students, especially those—some of whom have traveled enormous distances to be here. Thank you. I'm glad that you thought it was worth your while, and I hope that you still believe that it was. And I hope that next year, we will be able to do this with even larger numbers of students and with an even more focused program.

We didn't really know how this was going to happen, but all of us, at least who've been involved in this, have been immensely impressed with the students. We believe you are the pioneers of the new generation of philanthropy; that you see entirely new ways to give and to work together. So I hope you have enjoyed it, and I hope that you will be willing to tell everybody back on all of your campuses that it was a good thing. And I hope that the publicity coming out of this will

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enable you to have venues and the means to have a much larger number of students next year. And I thank you very, very much for being here. I- [Applause]

Now let me just say a few words in closing. The young people here will now come of age and be able to live their entire lifetimes in an environment in which philanthropy will be seen in an entirely different way. I hope it will come to be seen as an elemental part of student life. There's only one state in the country now, Maryland, which actually requires community service as a condition, it's part of the curriculum, in order to finish school. I think every school in America, every school system should require this.

I wish at least every high school had its own non-governmental organization that could brand the school, and I think a lot of colleges might want to do that, too, although there may be too many disparate organizations already operating to do that.

But all these developments in the world have proved to us that there are things that you can do without regard to politics to make good things happen in other peoples lives, which bring you closer together and enhance our common future. One of my favorites, obviously, as a lot of you've heard me talk about this, is Kiva.org, which was started by two young people who basically thought that the internet could be used to

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turn every concerned person in the world with at least \$25 to give into an individual micro credit entrepreneur. And so what you do, if you go to Kiva.org you can find profiles of people all over the world who, for as little as \$25 or as much as \$400, which normally involves the compounding of several peoples' loans, can do dramatic things.

There's a man who runs a TV repair shop in Kabul, Afghanistan who got a couple hundred bucks off Kiva and doubled his employment. And it sounds like a little thing, doesn't it? But it reduces the threat of terror and increases the prospect of stability in a troubled country, which is on the front lines of the conflict between a genuine moderate Muslim democracy and a fanatic terrorist group designed to upset the established order of things and impose its own particular and very narrow world view on the women and men and children who live there.

Two people started Kiva, not unlike the people here. And they didn't have to have much money to do it. When I wrote about Kiva in my book, and we announced that in the book party started, within 48 hours they had to shut down their loan operations because every single person had been fully funded. It shows you [Applause] the power of the media. And we can all do things like that. We can all make a difference in the world.

And I thought about saying this—I'm not in politics any more, so I don't have to resort to hyperbole [laughter]. And

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normally I'm loathe to do so. But I do believe it is verifiably accurate that this generation of young people has more power as private citizens to do public good than any previous generation in history. And you heard in a discussion today about New Orleans, the work that's being done by the city, the volunteers in the schools.

And you heard about [Applause] the great public servant in charge of reconstruction. And he was saying that what we need is to change the food production patterns, we need to change the transportation patterns—they need to do all this. A lot of this work can be done by innovative private citizens that believe that there is opportunity in every problem and who have innovative ideas and the energy to see them through.

Also your generation understands the technology that is at your fingertips more than any previous one. In fact, there's a good chance that those of you who know about the Clinton Global Initiative first heard about it on YouTube, where more than half a million people have viewed our video showing the work of individual citizens in action all across the world.

I think you also understand that there is no inherent conflict and, in fact, you can't really choose between the importance of politics and citizen service. Think about the things we discussed here today. We talked about climate change, we talked about poverty alleviation, we talked about health

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crises, we talked about human rights problems in Darfur and elsewhere.

In every single one of these areas it is inconceivable that the problems will be adequately and fully addressed without different policies by governments and international organizations. On the other hand, every single one of these areas, millions and millions and millions of people can be helped and a real dent can be made in the struggle against global warming; given present energy prices and what we know about the options for sustainable development, with no political changes, as long as there's not somebody standing in your way and stopping you. Therefore, the great test for your generation of citizenship will be how to be intelligently involved politically and never use that as an excuse not to be doing what you can be doing right now to change other peoples' lives and your common future for the better [Applause]. And the key to all of this is to relentlessly think about the same thing: how can we take the good intentions we all have and turn them into positive changes in other peoples' lives? Around the corner or around the world?

For those of you who aren't students here, you can be a part of this, too. You can go home and log on to our website, MyCommitment.org, and either make a commitment or say you want to and get our people to work with you to develop one.

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And I want to say one more word before we leave New Orleans. You all clapped when I mentioned this at first. This city is unique in American history, and there are very few places like it anywhere in the world. Now, Montreal probably comes the closest in Canada.

But New Orleans is the capital of the old Napoleonic Empire in the United States. By the time Napoleon had it, it had also been ruled, most of the area of the Louisiana Purchase, by the Spanish. When Thomas Jefferson bought Louisiana Purchase for \$15, fifteen million dollars, about a dollar an acre, less than a dollar an acre, we were largely a country dominated by English and Scots. We were largely a British people, and the Scots-Irish, mostly Protestant then, with a fair up number of Dutch people in New York and substantial German populations, most of whom were then in Pennsylvania.

Just the purchase of Louisiana made us a French country and a Spanish country as well, and diversified the Native American tribes who were part of our original heritage. It began the expansion of America as a continental nation, without which the future of this country would have been very different. New Orleans then became our gateway to the Caribbean and its cultures, including the culture of Haiti with all of

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its interesting elements, most of them imported from the West African country of Benin and surrounding areas.

So all of this here is important to us. It then became the birthplace of Dixieland music, which was the basis of jazz, which was the basis of rock and roll, which became the basis of rap. [Laughter] Now, I say all this to point out—and hip hop and all that stuff I'm supposed to know about. I don't.

[Laughter]

The point of all that is this: it doesn't matter if you've never been here. If you don't know what Mardi Gras means. It doesn't matter. It is inconceivable that this country would not want a complete and total rebuilding of this place in a way that not only preserves this unique, incredible past, making it a city apart from all others in the United States, but also to give it a better future, because by the time Katrina hit, a lot of people were suffering a disaster every week in New Orleans anyway [Applause] because of the absence of economic and other opportunity.

So I want to say again how grateful I am to the mayor, to all the people involved in the reconstruction effort, to everyone. Thank you very much for having us. And for those of you who are working in New Orleans and for those of you who might yet do so, you ought to keep it in mind: it is a great test of our national character and our understanding about the

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importance of our history and our culture, whether this city comes back stronger than it was before Katrina hit. And all of us can play a role in that. All of us. Every single one of us.

Now let me say one other thing. [Hoot from audience] I couldn't—good thing I'm deaf, I guess! [Laughter and applause] Let me say one other thing. I want you to think about this as you leave. When I saw all of these students, milling around, going to these meetings, talking together, differently practicing Christians, differently practicing Jews, differently practicing Muslims, Asians of different faiths and cultures, all bound together and this interesting thing I thought about, a recent discovery in the ongoing saga of the human genome by Craig Venters' new private company, claiming that all the scientists who said originally that genetically we were 99.9 percent the same were dead wrong. And his finding has now become the major source of controversy in modern biology.

You know what he claims? We're only 99.5 percent the same. Now, think of it. There are actually massive consequences to this at the edges of biological research, whether we're 99.5 or 99.9 percent the same. But from the point of view of religion, psychology, and basic politics, this is a stunning revelation. The range of our differences is somewhere between one tenth and one half of one percent. So if you look at everybody in this room, every single physical difference you

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can detect, including gender, size, shape, skin color, everything, is somehow rooted in somewhere between one tenth and one half percent of your genetic makeup.

And yet most of us spend over 90 percent of our lives obsessing with that. Don't we? I mean, tell the truth. You don't have to be involved in the spat between Hamas and Fatah or the argument over the unresolved issues between Israel and the Palestinians to know that you yourself, even if you think you're a largely non-political person, spend an enormous percentage of your conscious hours obsessing over what makes you different from somebody else.

And yet you come here and do all this and pour your heart out because the minute you begin to think about it, you realize that the interdependent world we live in makes what we have in common more important even than our interesting differences. So life is more interesting, and progress is more possible, because of the things that we are different in. It gives us different strengths, it gives us different abilities to make music or break scientific barriers. But what makes all this possible is your recognition that we live in an interdependent world, where our common future and our essential common essence are more important than our interesting differences.

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That's what makes the inequality trap that is bedeviling rich and poor countries alike so unconscionable; in income and education and health care. That's what makes the threat of terrorism and the spread of nuclear materials and biological materials and chemical materials used to destroy people so unthinkable. Why would you snuff yourself out?

And you can only justify doing that if you believe that somehow you with that little bitty difference of yours have somehow been given access to absolute truth which enables you to turn it into an absolutely true political platform which enables you to dehumanize anybody who doesn't see it the way you do. [Applause] Once you focus on the sheer improbability of that, it's quite humbling.

Most of you just live this way without even thinking about it. Intuitively you know this is true. So I brought you here. But if you think about it, if what makes— If you go to Brown University and you're proud of this phenomenal opportunity you have, what makes it possible for you to identify with children suffering in Darfur who are penned up almost like they were animals and can't move around, and are afraid if they do start moving around they'll get killed. It makes you sympathetic with the failure to resolve the differences between the Israelis and the Palestinians which are critical to Israel ever having any long-term security and

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critical to whether the Palestinian children will ever be treated like decent human beings and get the support they need from their friends and neighbors.

It makes you able to identify with poor miners in South America or Southeast Asia, whose children never get to go to school. It makes you want to do things like the project that was announced earlier today, figuring out how to repair medical equipment in poor countries where it's useable until it goes bust and now, because there are no systems to provide new parts and train people to take care of them, people will resume dying in the ways they did before as soon as something goes wrong. It makes all this possible.

That's what I'd like you to think about when you leave. The technology is great. The fact that we're interdependent means that we can all blow each other up, and we can kill each other easier than ever before. But we can also lift each other up in ways that were never before possible in all of human history. And it means that we really don't have any option but to choose one course or the other. Because the more you stand mute in the middle, the more the forces of disintegration gain the upper hand. The more you become an actor [Applause] the more you become an actor, the more you see the solution in every problem, the promise in every peril, the more the

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nihilism that is arrayed against you looks empty. And that's what this is all about.

I have always been convinced that the great promise of America is that we were dumb enough to believe that the future could always be better than the past. And our founding fathers believed that. They gave America a mission that should be the world's mission. Luckily, these guys knew; they were smart. They knew better than to believe you could keep a country forever where only white male property owners could vote. Even I couldn't have been a voter, and my family, we would have been poor white trash working for somebody else, no property. We're scratched, too.

But you think about that: these people, in that society, pledged their lives, their fortunes, their sacred honor to form a more perfect union. On the premise that all people were created equal.

Brain science shows it, too, you know. All these sophisticated machines that study the brain now tell us that, give or take, 99 percent of all the people on earth can learn about 100 percent of what they need to do, to know, to function in any kind of sophisticated society. People have equal intelligence. They work hard; in fact, people in the poorest countries often work harder than the people in the richest countries do just to keep body and soul together and have to be

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much more creative, almost like social guerillas to figure out how to navigate a chaotic environment.

What is not equally provided is investment and opportunity in systems that make a predictable connection between the efforts you make and the results you get. You know, if you really think about it, even though it's subconscious, when all those students stood up with pride when President Simmons came up here, they really think they're at a place which gives them a chance to learn more, to explore themselves, after which they'll be able to live their dreams.

In order to live your dreams, there has to be some connection between the efforts you are making and the results you get. You would be astonished—here we are at Tulane—you would be astonished if the air conditioning failed and it became 100 degrees in here overnight—in two minutes. Wouldn't you? You'd be astonished if the lights went off, you'd be astonished if my microphone malfunctioned. You'd be astonished.

Just remember, more than half the world live in places where none of those things could be taken for granted. That's really what all this is about. And when Katrina hit, we saw our fellow human beings in this country not able to take any of that stuff for granted. Not even being able to get water, some of them, for five days.

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So think about that when you leave. This is basically—could climate change compromise the whole future of our children and grandchildren? Of course it could. Can anybody know with any absolute precision when we've passed the tipping point, given the fact that greenhouse gases linger in the atmosphere for decades after you stop producing them? No. There will never be complete certainty in life.

But one of the things we do know, if you go back from the dawn of human history, when the first of our *homo sapiens* ancestors set up on the African savannah somewhere around the Ngorongoro crater, down to the present day, people who work together generally do better than people who fight. People who build generally do better than people who wreck. People who learn generally do better than people who insist on remaining ignorant. And people who care generally fare better than the heartless. We know that. [Applause]

And so, I ask all of you to leave thinking about that. If you could tell us how we can make this better; do it. If you can help us swell it and double or triple it in size, please do. But this is an important part of the world's work in the 21st century. We cannot have a global economy financially without having a global society. We cannot be interdependent in fact unless we are consciously interdependent and working for our mutual future. And the young people here have a bigger

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stake in that than anybody else, and also because of your facility with the new technology, a greater ability to change the future for the better than any previous generation of young Americans or young people in any other part of the world.

This has been immensely rewarding for me. I thank you for coming in here and supporting it. I ask you to think about these things as you leave. And when you go home, think about whether you can make the basic sale to everybody you know. If people get the basic facts of where we are, interdependence and our staggering potential, then I think your future is likely to be very bright indeed. Thank you and God bless you all.

[Applause]

[END RECORDING]