

Dr. W. Kent Fuchs
UF President

Thank you, Dean Perri. Congratulations to the College of Public Health and Health Professions on six decades of amazing accomplishment!

I have greatly enjoyed hearing about the college's exceptional faculty, students and alumni and how they built this college, strengthened our university and enhanced public health in Florida and across the world.

It is a remarkable story, but far from complete.

Indeed, on this evening of celebrating the college's past, I would like to celebrate its future.

I love the culture of collaboration that was established by the founding dean and that remains its hallmark to this day. With this culture underpinning your work internally and with those outside the college, you will lead in solving the ever-more complex challenges ahead.

I love the college's humanitarian focus of "service plus, research plus and education plus," as we saw with the HealthStreet video. This meaningfully adopts and carries forward UF's historic land-grant mission. It is a model for all of our 16 colleges.

I admire the college involvement in critical advances in health care, such as the cochlear implant. This legacy is carried into the present by faculty who continue to make key contributions to rehabilitation, worker safety, the health professions and epidemiology — including the new vaccine for Ebola.

This is incredibly important work. And, it is work that will long embody UF's founding charter.

Finally, I appreciate your great energy and attention devoted to teaching, and to preparing students to tackle the known challenges of today and the unknown ones of tomorrow.

Dean Perri, faculty, alumni, friends, it's been an inspiring evening.

The College of Public Health and Health Professions is indeed a beacon for the entire university, and I know you will continue to shine for the next 60 years and beyond. Thank you!

