On behalf of WSU I’d like to express our appreciation to Catholic Community Services for this award and for the recognition of the community engaged learning and scholarship being done by our students, faculty and staff.

My name is Chuck Wight and it gives me great pleasure to serve as president of WSU since January 1.

The three core themes of Weber State University are Access, Learning, & Community. At an institutional level, community engagement often means exercising political leadership to promote economic development & social justice. But at a personal level it usually means integrating community service with teaching, learning and scholarship.

Sometimes this is done in the form of pure service projects, which help to create a lifelong habit of giving. But increasingly we find that community engagement helps to support and reinforce learning by encouraging students use the knowledge they acquire in the classroom to solve real-world problems in partnership with people and organizations in our community.

I would like to particularly salute the work of the faculty, staff and students in our Community Involvement Center, under the amazing leadership of Prof. Brenda Kowalewski. Their vision and leadership have lead to national recognition of WSU as a community-engaged institution, and more importantly, as a respected leader in our local community, as exemplified by this award.

Thank you.