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Mark DiOrio / Photo Editor

Chancellor Nancy Cantor read "Anansi and the Talking Melon" to elementary school children at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Magnet School.

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Cantor visits community school, museum

BY KATIE BAUM AND LAURA VAN WERT
STAFF WRITERS

In an effort to reach out to the Syracuse community before delivering her keynote campus-wide address, Syracuse University Chancellor Nancy Cantor visited areas off-campus to promote her year-long academic theme, "University as a Public Good: Exploring the Soul of Syracuse."

Cantor visited Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Applied Science Magnet Community School as the first of three events planned for a daylong celebration of her inaugural year as chancellor. She took time to meet

and greet parents, faculty, staff and other members of the community before speaking to adult GED students and reading to a group of students.

"She is such a warm person," said Louise C. Wilkinson, dean of the School of Education. "She has such a great interest in the community."

Cantor's visit to the elementary school was one of several activities planned for the week fitting into her "Soul of Syracuse" theme, said Sarah Mortimer, associate director of SU News Services.

"The university is like a Mecca
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Cantor visits community, gives speech

ADDRESS

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scholarship in action, including the many symposia and conferences that have addressed various issues of social concern, the creative exchanges between disciplines and colleges.

The university's continuing efforts to acknowledge the history and struggles of diversity were also noted as successes in the chancellor's address.

As a university is only as strong as its students, Cantor emphasized investing in ways to financially help attract lower- and middle-class students. It is these students, she said, that might bring the most to the table with life experiences in different and diverse backgrounds and experiences.

"We are more interested in getting the student who, with the opportunity given here, will change the world—and perhaps make the university famous—than the student who wants to come to a famous university for the lust of its name," she said.

Currently, there are proposals for initiatives offering more financial aid for lower- and middle-class students, which will be a focus of the upcoming fundraising campaign, Cantor said.

Additionally, Dean David Rubin of the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications and Vice President of Enrollment Management David Smith will co-chair a committee to find ways to recruit those students, Cantor said.

"Politically correct or not, there is a vibrancy that comes from engaging difference," Cantor said, "and we learn from both the differences exposed and the solidarity that sometimes follows."

In a year hallmarked by a number of plans and ideas for breaking down walls between the city and the university, there have been tangible results of the chancellor's efforts as well.

The School of Architecture's new warehouse location—currently under renovation—the securing of donations from Congressman Jim Walsh for the Connective Corridor, funding for interdisciplinary programs, a change in the discount rate for student aid to help students and an increased presence in New York City and Los Angeles were just some of the clear results the chancellor listed in an interview following the speech.

Though much of the address concerned the results of this first year of exploration, the chancellor also outlined her plans for the continuance and expansion of the theme, suggesting investments to better the campus and create partnerships in the community.

"As we think about where Syracuse University should be five to ten years from now," she said, "we want the reputation and visibility of the entire university to be as good as its individual parts ..."

The plan for the future creative campus emphasized the creation of interdisciplinary areas as the core of the university. Cantor emphasized four areas—faculty and professional excellence; creating access for students; engaging the world on a city, national and global level and creating social capital.

"We share a hope in our ability to keep attracting talent—students faculty, staff and partners with the will to 'color' outside the lines," so that the experience of Syracuse can be transformational—changing ours and ourselves for the better," she said.

Cantor emphasized the three broad areas in the academic plan—science and technology; human needs, social policy and community and economic development and the public humanities, communication and arts—as the focus of the many investments.

"We've got a rich base in each of the three, a core to build on," Cantor said afterward.

These investments would take different forms in different areas, Cantor said. She emphasized the recruitment and aid for graduate students and faculty in areas that

cut across colleges and disciplines. "In light of our long traditions of excellence in scholarship in action, across our colleges, I believe that Syracuse can and should play a national leadership role in working on expanded guild lines for the evaluation of faculty excellence," she said.

As the university makes continued commitments to faculty and students, it will also need to commit to housing its members, a need met by the \$258 million renovation and building plans announced March 30, Cantor said.

These renovations, as well as increased work in areas from as close as downtown to as far as the abroad programs in Beijing are all part of the expansion off the Hill and an effort to create and sustain lasting relationships with the community.

The end goal of these efforts, is the creation of "social capital," Cantor said. The continuing connections will foster innovation and make difference, she said.

"Citizenship is both about what you do yourself and about making common cause with others," Cantor said. "Examining ourselves and our own community is critical to education, but it sometimes happens best in the company of others."

The address also included the unveiling of SU painting professor Garry Trento's portrait of Cantor in a pose that both fills the space and invites all to join her, said Carole Brzozowski, the dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Wolfe and Brzozowski unveiled the portrait as Cantor nervously watched and blew a kiss at Trento, who was seated in the balcony.

Suzanne Haas-Cunningham, a professor of marriage and family therapy, sang her own song expressing the pain of those trapped in the world of those surrounded by gangs and violence.

Cantor has built trust and built lasting groundwork in the community that will continue to benefit students and the community, said Lauren D'Angelo, a freshman policy studies major and student liaison to the traditions commission.

"It's extraordinary what she's done," D'Angelo said. "The bond she's building with the community is going to help further down the line ... I'm proud to be at the university with her now."