

Dedication Luncheon

UC Washington Center
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Bruce B. Darling
Senior Vice President, University and External Relations
University of California

Good afternoon. My name is Bruce Darling and I am Senior Vice President for University and External Relations. It is a pleasure to welcome you to the first of today's events commemorating the establishment of the University's Washington Center.

I have had the opportunity to tour the Center once during construction and again yesterday. It is a wonderful building that lives up to nearly all of our expectations. But the most important aspect of the new Center is what takes place in the building – the classes, the research, and the formulation of the University's public policy goals – carried out by our students and faculty and our Office of Federal Governmental Relations.

When you gather at the building this afternoon, I want you to note the building's location, which looks down upon a statue of Daniel Webster, adjacent to Scott Circle. Webster, of course, was a nationally known orator, attorney, U.S. senator and secretary of state. What is less well known is that in an indirect way, he is the instigator of America's great public universities.

Although Thomas Jefferson created the nation's first great public university, The University of Virginia, most American colleges and universities in the 1700's were church-affiliated and private. In the early 1800's, state legislatures began to provide public funds

to these private institutions to subsidize growing citizen demand for a higher education. In doing so, not surprisingly, the legislatures also sought to exert control over these institutions.

Then in 1819, Webster won national fame in the case of *Dartmouth v. Woodward* in the U.S. Supreme Court, which changed the direction of American higher education. The New Hampshire legislature attempted, in 1816, to return to the presidency of Dartmouth the popular president who had just been fired by the Board of Trustees. Dartmouth trustees fought this interference all the way to the Supreme Court, where they were represented by Webster, a Dartmouth alumnus. The Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice John Marshall, ruled in favor of the Dartmouth trustees and against legislative interference in the affairs of private institutions. The case had three consequences:

- 1) It established the autonomy of private universities.
- 2) State legislatures, throughout the country, withdrew their subsidies from private colleges and universities.
- 3) And this, in turn, set in motion the creation of the nation's great public universities in Michigan, Indiana, and Wisconsin, culminating with the founding of the University of California.

So take a moment to pay tribute to Daniel Webster without whom we might be faculty, alumni and staff of the only private university in existence in California – the University of Pacific – which was actively seeking public subsidies from the state legislature to carry out its mission to educate the residents of the emerging state of California.

Lunch will be served in a moment. Please take a minute to introduce yourselves to your table companions and enjoy the conversation. After lunch, President Atkinson will make some remarks and answer a few questions.