

because it's in their interest. They want good employees. They're looking for folks with skills.

When you can say, "Hey, the math that I'm doing here could change the way the business operates," or, "I see how this biology experiment could help develop a drug that cures a disease," that's a door opening in your imagination. It's also good for our economy. It's good for our businesses. That's a new career path you're thinking about that allows you to pursue higher education in that field or the very training you need to get a good job or create a new business that changes the world. That's good for our economy, it's good for business; it's good for you, it's good for America.

As a country, we've got to do everything we can to make sure that every single young person here can have that "aha" moment. That light bulb goes off, and suddenly, you're not just studying because your parents tell you to or your teacher tells you to, you're studying because you know you've got something to offer.

And I want to make sure every student in America has a chance to get that moment, that realization that your education can not just unlock your future and take you places you never imagined, but you're also going to be leading

this country. That's the chance that this country gave to me and Michelle. And that's the chance I want for every single one of you. From preschool for every 4-year-old in America to higher education for everybody who wants to go, every young person deserves a fair shot. And I'm going to keep on doing everything I can to make sure you get that shot and to keep America a place where you can make it if you try.

I'm proud of your principal. I'm proud of your superintendent. I'm proud of everybody who got involved in making sure that you guys were already doing the right thing before you won this new grant. And I know it's going to be well spent. Most of all, I'm proud of the students.

Thank you very much, everybody. God bless you. Go Mustangs! All right.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:35 a.m. in the gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Leah Woody, student, Bladensburg High School; Kevin M. Maxwell, superintendent, Prince George's County Public Schools; and Rushern L. Baker III, county executive, Prince George's County, MD.

Remarks at the Swearing-In Ceremony for Maria Contreras-Sweet as Administrator of the Small Business Administration

April 7, 2014

All right, everybody, please have a seat.

I just wanted to stop by and congratulate Maria on officially being sworn in as the head of the SBA.

I want to thank the Members of Congress who are here today, as well as the terrific staff at the SBA for helping America's small businesses succeed, and who have been holding down the fort until we got this confirmation through.

I nominated Maria because she knows first hand the challenges that small businesses go through, and she has a proven track record of helping them succeed. She was California's secretary of business, transportation, and housing, and in that role she was the driving force

behind major public investments in job-creating industries. As the founder of the ProAmérica Bank, she supported Latino entrepreneurs throughout Los Angeles.

So Maria understands that small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy. They represent the promise that if you work hard in this country, you can succeed, and you can help your children do even better.

And that's why this administration has been so focused on helping small businesses succeed from day one. We cut taxes 18 times for small businesses in my first term. We've helped more than 200,000 small businesses get loans supported by the SBA. Today, our economy is growing and our businesses have created

almost 9 million new jobs, and a lot of that has to do with the fact that there are small businesses out there who are making things happen every single day.

But we can always do more. And that's why having such a hard charger as Maria, who knows both the entrepreneurial side as well as public service, is so important. When I announced her nomination back in January, I was absolutely confident that she was going to do a terrific job. And I am no less confident today.

I understand, she already had meetings this morning. She didn't really wait for the ceremony—[laughter]—to start meeting with some of our veterans and women-owned businesses and Latino- and African American-owned businesses. And she's going to be out there, I know, listening to small businesses, working with our other agencies that are in charge of helping businesses grow. And I'm confident that by the end of her tenure she's really going to have made her mark and made a difference.

And of course, she also has a really beautiful family, which is good too.

So with that, Biden is in charge of the next stage of this thing. [Laughter] And he always does a great job. And it's not that many lines—[laughter]—so hopefully, we'll get them right. We had a few problems my first time out, but second time went smoothly. So—[laughter]. And Joe has done this a lot. [Laughter]

So congratulations again, Maria. Thank you.

[At this point, the President left the stage. Vice President Joe Biden delivered brief remarks and then administered the oath of office. Administrator Contreras-Sweet then delivered brief remarks.]

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:35 p.m. in the South Court Auditorium of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Vice President Biden and Administrator Contreras-Sweet.

Statement on the Maryland Legislature's Passage of Legislation To Raise the Minimum Wage

April 7, 2014

The Maryland Legislature did the right thing for its workers today by increasing the State minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour. Maryland's important action is a reminder that many States, cities and counties, as well as a majority of the American people, are way ahead of Washington on this crucial issue. I applaud Governor O'Malley and the State legislature for leading by example and giving more Maryland workers the raise they deserve. But

there's only one group who can get the job done for the entire country—that's Congress. They should follow Maryland's lead and lift wages for 28 million Americans by passing legislation to increase the Federal minimum wage to \$10.10, helping to ensure that no American who works full time has to raise a family in poverty and that every American who works hard has the opportunity to succeed.

Statement on Senate Action on Emergency Unemployment Insurance Legislation

April 7, 2014

Today the Senate acted in a bipartisan way to reinstate emergency unemployment insurance for 2.3 million Americans who depend on it as they search for work. As I've said time and

again, Washington needs to put politics aside and help these hard-working, responsible Americans make ends meet and support their families as they look for a job. Each week Con-