

didn't deny *Sputnik* was up there. We didn't haggle over the facts or shrink our R&D budget. No, we built a space program almost overnight and beat them to the Moon. And then we kept going, becoming the first country to take an up-close look at every planet in the solar system too. That's who we are.

And that's why, in my first Inaugural Address, I vowed to return science to its rightful place. It's why in our first few months, we made the largest single investment in basic research in our history. And it's why, over the last 8 years, we've modernized the Government's approach to innovation for the 21st century. We've jump-started a clean energy revolution and unleashed the potential of precision medicine. We've partnered with the private sector and academia and launched moonshots for cancer, brain research, and solar energy. We've harnessed big data to foster social innovation and invested in STEM education and computer science so that every young person—no matter where they come from or what they look like—can reach their potential and help us win the future.

That's what this is about: making sure that America is the nation that leads the world into the next frontier. And that's why I've been so committed to science and innovation, because I'll always believe that with the right investments and the brilliance and ingenuity of the American people, there's nothing we cannot do.

Thanks, everybody, and have a great weekend.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 11:05 a.m. on October 13 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast on October 15. In the address, the President referred to Dunbar, PA, resident Nathan Copeland, a patient at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Pittsburgh, PA; and Christine Darden, Margery Hannah, and Katherine G. Johnson, mathematicians and former employees, NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, VA. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 14, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on October 15. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer

October 15, 2016

For several years, the United States has worked tirelessly to find a global solution to phasing down the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). This super polluting greenhouse gas, used in air conditioners and refrigeration, can be hundreds to thousands of times more potent than carbon dioxide, and represents a rapidly growing threat to the health of our planet.

Today in Kigali, Rwanda, nearly 200 countries adopted an ambitious and far reaching solution to this looming crisis. Through the Montreal Protocol, a proven forum for solving environmental challenges like protecting the ozone layer, the world community has agreed to phase down the production and consumption of HFCs and avoid up to 0.5 degrees Celsius of warming by the end of the century, making a significant contribution

towards achieving the goals we set in Paris. The plan provides financing to countries in need so that new air conditioning and refrigeration technology can be available for their citizens. It shows that we can take action to protect our planet in a way that helps all countries improve the lives and livelihoods of their citizens.

Today's agreement caps off a critical 10 days in our global efforts to combat climate change. In addition to today's amendment, countries last week crossed the threshold for the Paris Agreement to enter into force and reached a deal to constrain international aviation emissions. Together, these steps show that, while diplomacy is never easy, we can work together to leave our children a planet that is safer, more prosperous, more secure, and more free than the one that was left for us.

Remarks at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School October 17, 2016

Hello, Bulldogs! [Applause] Hey! Good to see you guys. How's everybody doing? Oh, you all look good. You look good. Hey! How's everybody?

Well, it is so nice to see you guys. Everybody, have a seat though. Have a seat. I know you've been waiting here a while. Good thing you all had your phones with you. As the father of two teenage daughters, I know the whole time you were just like, "And then he said—girl, I couldn't believe it." [Laughter]

Anyway, it's so good to see you. [Applause] Thank you! A couple of people I want to acknowledge. First of all, I want to thank our Secretary of Education, who has done outstanding work, John King is in the house. And then my great friend and former Education Secretary and multiple winner of the three-on-three contest, as well as at the NBA All-Star Game—he can ball—Arne Duncan. We've got your mayor, Muriel Bowser is here. Give her a big round of applause. Your Representative, Eleanor Holmes Norton. And we are so grateful not only for their service to the country, but the amazing work they're doing with their philanthropic work and America's Promise, Colin and Alma Powell.

So, by now, you've settled into the new year. Right? Adjusted to classes. You're preparing for Spirit Week. Learning how to ballroom dance. [Laughter] I remember having to do that. Getting the nerve to text that cute girl or boy in your English class. [Laughter] I don't remember that; we did not have texts. We had to send little notes. And then we used to actually have to go up to somebody if we liked them and talk to them. So you—that may happen to you someday. [Laughter] Seniors are looking at colleges, taking tests, filling out all the forms. And Malia just went through this, so I know how tough this is for you and for the parents.

But as I'm winding down my Presidency, I was so impressed with Banneker the last time I was here in 2011 that I wanted to come back, because you're an example of a school that's

doing things the right way. And I believe that if you're going to be able to do whatever you want to do in your lives—if you want to become a teacher or a doctor or start a business or develop the next great app or be President—then you've got to have great education.

We live in a global economy. And when you graduate, you're no longer going to be competing just with somebody here in DC for a great job. You're competing with somebody on the other side of the world, in China or in India, because jobs can go wherever they want because of the Internet and because of technology. And the best jobs are going to go to the people who are the best educated, whether in India or China or anywhere in the world.

So, when I took office almost 8 years ago, we knew that our education system was falling short when it came to preparing young people like you for that reality. Our public schools had been the envy of the world, but the world caught up. And we started getting outpaced when it came to math and science education. And African American and Latino students, in part because of the legacy of discrimination, too often lagged behind our White classmates, something called the achievement gap that, by one estimate, costs us hundreds of billions of dollars a year. And we were behind other developed countries when it came to the number of young people who were getting a higher education. So I said, when I first came into office, by 2020, I want us to be number one again. I want us to be number one across the board.

So we got to work, making real changes to improve the chances for all of our young people, from the time they're born all the way through until they've got a career. And the good news is that we've made real progress. So I just wanted to talk to you about the progress we've made, because you are the reason we've made progress: some outstanding young people all across the country.

We recently learned that America's high school graduation rate went up to 83 percent, which is the highest on record. That's good