

their hometowns across the Commonwealth and make a difference for those in need.

Eighty percent of Kentuckians are still without a college degree. The fight to educate citizens of Kentucky wages on, and with the help of forward-thinking institutions like Midway College, the future looks brighter than ever before. So today I would like to ask my colleagues in the U.S. Senate if they would join me in recognizing the faculty and staff of Kentucky's own Midway College.

Mr. President, the Kentucky publication "Discover the Power of Southeast Kentucky," published by the Southeast Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, recently printed an article extolling Midway College and its president, Dr. William B. Drake, Jr. I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Discover the Power of Southeast Kentucky, Summer 2011]

MIDWAY COLLEGE PRESIDENT DR. WILLIAM B. DRAKE, JR.

Anticipation is in the air as the new Midway College School of Pharmacy prepares to greet its inaugural class. The City of Paintsville, Johnson County, and people throughout the region are excited about the arrival of students aspiring to earn the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree.

Five years ago, the vision of bringing a pharmacy school to eastern Kentucky began taking shape in the minds of Paintsville attorney G. Chad Perry III, his wife, Judy, and the administration of Midway College led by Midway College President Dr. William B. Drake, Jr. One by one, the people whose support was needed recognized the merit of the idea and got behind it. One by one the obstacles to such an ambitious plan were overcome.

In January 2010, Midway College Board of Trustees Chairman James J. O'Brien, Chairman and CEO of Ashland, Inc., officially announced that the Midway College School of Pharmacy would open in Paintsville. Local and state government officials were on hand along with a large crowd gathered for the announcement. U.S. Representative Hal Rogers said, "This project will bring a hundred good paying jobs to the region during a time of high unemployment rates. It also builds educational resources at home to continue the mission of providing quality opportunities so our best and brightest students don't have to leave Kentucky for professional degrees and careers."

In explaining why Midway College chose Paintsville as the site, President Drake said, "The citizens of this community care about education and these citizens, as well as the local public officials, have stepped forward at this unique time to make this school happen." A two-million dollar campaign took place in Paintsville to assist with the capital expenses of building the new school. The school is expected to generate more than \$30 million in economic activity annually in the Paintsville area.

President Drake said the college could not ask for a more enthusiastic or dedicated community than Paintsville. "They understand the value of education," he said. "And it is an incredibly attractive place to work, live, and earn your professional degree."

Dr. Drake has been making weekly trips to Johnson County to oversee the process which

he says has been taxing but worthwhile. "It's like building a whole new culture," he said, describing the many facets of expanding the college's already sizable system of location. He called the projected \$20-million startup venture one of the biggest decisions ever for the private college, whose roots predate the Civil War.

Founded in 1847, Midway College has a main campus in Midway, Kentucky, which is located between Frankfort and Lexington, and offers coursework in 14 different locations across the Commonwealth. In addition to offering in-seat coursework in both the traditional and accelerated setting, Midway offers classes in an online format, providing additional flexibility for students to have the opportunity to obtain their degree. One program unique to Midway includes an online bachelor's degree in Mining Management and Safety. This is one of the only programs in the country designed for those working in the mining industry. Midway College also offers a Masters of Business Administration and will launch a Master of Arts in Teaching this fall, both of which are offered in an online format.

The new school is expected to fill a need for pharmacists all across the nation. With the baby-boomer generation coming into its retirement years, there is a call for pharmacists not only to care for the aging populace but to replace those "boomers" who are retiring from behind the drug counters themselves. According to industry data, there are approximately five applications for each opening at pharmacy schools in the U.S., with even greater need in Appalachia. Only four states have more difficulty than Kentucky in filling pharmacist positions, and there are only two other pharmacy schools in Kentucky—the University of Kentucky in Lexington and the Sullivan School in Louisville.

"Because of the number of students that apply to pharmacy schools, we could fill enrollment with students from California, there are that many," Dr. Drake said. But, he explained, there is a special emphasis on drawing students from the immediate area. "It has been the intent of those who care about the school that we look first and foremost at the students from Appalachia" he said.

"As students graduate from our school they will meet the pressing need that exists in Kentucky today for pharmacists."

Within a year of the official announcement about the opening of the school, the process was underway to select the 80 students who would make up the enrollment of the first class. More than 430 applications were received for the coveted 80 spots. To date, 25 faculty and staff members have been hired with an anticipated total of approximately 100. The school's faculty salaries will be in the 60th percentile of pharmaceutical faculty salaries in the United States.

When asked about the contributions of his staff, President Drake said, "Having a staff like mine, with such an entrepreneurial spirit, has been like gold to me." The staff includes Martha Jean McKenzie Wells (PhD, MsS) and Emily L. Coleman (PhD, MEd) who are natives to the area. The school is also honored to have Dr. Barry Bleidt taking the helm as its Dean. Dr. Bleidt, who earned his undergraduate degrees in Pharmacy and Environmental Geography from the University of Kentucky, was formerly a founding member of Texas A&M's Health Science Center College and left there as the school's Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. He has also held prestigious positions at other pharmacy schools in California, Virginia, and Louisiana.

The School of Pharmacy has a vision of expanding the scope of pharmacy practice and

elevating the level of care to patients in all practice settings, with special emphasis on eastern Kentucky and Appalachia. With that goal in mind, Midway College has signed an agreement with the University of Pikeville guaranteeing interviews to the top 10 students who meet the academic qualifications. Similar agreements have been penned between Midway and Eastern Kentucky University, Big Sandy Community and Technical College, and Morehead State University. These agreements not only benefit the students through specific pharmaceutical instruction, but they will allow all schools to share their academic resources. Hand in hand with the University of Pikeville's School of Osteopathic Medicine and other post-secondary institutions in the area, Midway is looking to show the mountain communities the diverse options that are available to them. With 80 percent of Kentuckians without college degrees, the new institution will offer a fresh new route, a route that's already proving popular with students from the area. Fifty-five to 60 percent of the incoming class is from the state, and even more from adjacent mountain communities.

In keeping with the original vision of Midway and its donors, the new pharmacy school is by Kentuckians for Kentuckians, strengthening the region through strong ties to surrounding communities and its renewed outlook to higher education.

AMBASSADOR SHERRY REHMAN

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I want to welcome Pakistan's new Ambassador to the United States, Sherry Rehman. Ambassador Rehman has rightly been described as representing "the traditional values of Jinnah's Pakistan." As a journalist, politician, and diplomat, she has fought tirelessly in defense of tolerance and moderation and has been a leading voice for women's equality and protection of minority rights.

The United States-Pakistan relationship has been tested this past year, and while the problems we face are daunting, the basic fact is that stability in Pakistan remains vital to our national security. Ambassador Rehman has arrived in Washington at a time of deep mistrust on both sides. A series of tactical disputes have strained our strategic partnership. Progress on bedrock national interests has stalled, and Pakistan's internal politics seems exceptionally turbulent at this time.

Pakistan faces major challenges today, including an economic and fiscal crisis, a growing insurgency within its borders and cities, and chronic energy shortages. There is increasing anxiety in Pakistan about how the war ends in Afghanistan and what implications this will have for regional stability. Many on both sides are questioning the value and meaning of our strategic partnership.

The truth is we have a lot of work to do to rebuild a productive relationship. Despite our many frustrations and setbacks, we still have more to gain by finding common ground. Whether it is finding a political solution in Afghanistan, reducing militancy, supporting democracy and civil society, or promoting economic and development reforms, the basic fact is that our interests do converge. The challenge for all

of us now is to find ways to act together in common purpose, when and where possible.

For instance, on Afghanistan, we need to make our goals and strategy absolutely clear. Pakistan has a constructive role to play in forging a durable political settlement that will bring an end to this war. And while we have often been frustrated by the divergence of policies on Afghanistan, it remains important that we work together to further a reconciliation process that is Afghan led and supported by the region's key players. This is a time for us to be careful, to be thoughtful, and to proceed deliberately but determinately—as I believe we are—to strengthen our relationship and confront our common challenges.

Moreover, I want to emphasize that this relationship is not only about the threats we face. It is not only about defeating militant extremists who threaten the security of both our countries. It is also about building a deeper, broader, and long term strategic engagement with the people of Pakistan. As I have said before, Pakistan's prosperity and its security—as well as our own—depend on it. And I am determined to make sure that the kinds of projects supported by Kerry-Lugar-Berman funds remain on track and demonstrate our long term commitment to the stability of Pakistan and to the region itself.

Make no mistake: our ability to influence events in Pakistan is limited, and we should be realistic about what we can achieve. But we cannot allow events that might divide us in a small way to distract from the shared interests that unite us in a big way. Mohammad Ali Jinnah said it best in his address to Pakistan's Constituent Assembly in 1947. His words are as relevant in today's context as they were then:

If you will work in cooperation, forgetting the past, burying the hatchet, you are bound to succeed.

The road ahead will be difficult no doubt. But I look forward to working with Ambassador Rehman as a partner in these efforts in the months and years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE SALT LAKE COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Salt Lake Council of Women on the upcoming 100th anniversary of its founding.

In the ranks of those who greatly admire this wonderful organization and its exemplary members, I stand front and center today to salute them for their accomplishments and outstanding public service. As I do so, I am humbled by the magnitude of the task. It is difficult to find the right words that will do justice to their extraordinary contributions to Utah.

A century after its founding, this remarkable group has more than lived up to its motto: "Community Service for Civic Improvement." Evidence of its

good works is found throughout the Wasatch Front, including the International Peace Gardens the group was instrumental in making a reality in 1947 and has helped preside over ever since.

That alone is sufficient to ensure that the Salt Lake Council of Women's legacy will long endure in the heads and hearts of its legions of admirers. But this service organization's legacy neither begins nor ends there.

Its service began on February 26, 1912, when it organized with the aim of bettering the "social, civic and moral" environment of the Salt Lake City area, and that service has continued unabated and on an ever-increasing scale ever since.

Over the years, members of the Council have been a tireless advocate for Utah's youth, supporting child labor laws, visiting nurse and teacher programs for children who are ill, respect for the American flag, and the installation of the first drinking fountains in public schools.

They have further assisted with the Boy and Girl Scouts programs and helped found a home for troubled girls, which has evolved into what is now known as the Utah Youth Village. The organization has also helped the Utah State Development Center, Alcoholics Anonymous, Ronald McDonald House, and numerous hospitals, nursing homes, and homeless shelters and animal shelters, just to name a few.

And Utahns have not been the only beneficiaries. During World War I, the group provided relief to the embattled and starving Finnish people. When World War II erupted, the council gave generously to the USO, American Red Cross, and War Bond Drives. The council also has been a strong advocate for the arts, supporting the Utah Symphony, Ballet West and the Days of '47, Utah's annual July celebration to commemorate the 1847 arrival of the Mormon Pioneers in the Salt Lake Valley.

Today, as the Salt Lake Council of Women's centennial anniversary nears, its 200 members—representing 40 organizations and 5,000 women—are as engaging and anxiously engaged in the community as ever. Along with their continued commitment to the International Peace Gardens and Utah Youth Village, council members are involved with the YWCA, University Hospital Project, Wasatch Youth Center, and with an ever-widening variety of special projects. This month, for instance, the council will award a college scholarship to a victim of domestic violence, who will be chosen from mothers in the YWCA's long-term transitional housing program.

No matter what they do or who they serve, members of the Salt Lake Council of Women are the embodiment of what Mahatma Gandhi called "the spirit of service and sacrifice." As the council gathers February 25th to celebrate its 100th anniversary, I add my voice to the chorus of praise in saluting its visionary and selfless members,

both past and present, who have done so much for so many to make Utah the great place it is today.

REMEMBERING WHITNEY ELIZABETH HOUSTON

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, on Saturday, February 11, 2012, New Jersey lost one of its proudest daughters and our country lost one of its brightest stars when Whitney Houston died at the untimely age of 48.

Whitney Houston's New Jersey roots run deep. She was born in Newark in 1963. She moved to East Orange at age 4 and attended high school at Mount Saint Dominic Academy in Caldwell.

The daughter of noted gospel singer Cissy Houston, Whitney spent her young life singing in the choir of the New Hope Baptist Church in Newark. She never forgot her roots, and even after she became a star, she sometimes returned to New Hope Baptist Church to sing on Easter Sunday. Fittingly, it is at New Hope Baptist Church that Whitney's family and friends will mourn her loss and celebrate her life this Saturday, February 18.

Virtually from the moment of the release of her debut album, "Whitney Houston," Whitney was an international superstar. The album spent a record 14 weeks at the top of the Billboard charts, and it was the first album by a female artist to yield three No. 1 hits. One of those hits, "The Greatest Love of All," became an anthem and a symbol of hope. For all of us who work to make a better world for our children and grandchildren, the song's opening line, "I believe the children are our future," is a constant reminder of our mission.

Much more than just a great singer and performer, Whitney was a great patriot and humanitarian. Her performance of the "Star Spangled Banner" for Super Bowl XXV in 1991—during the first gulf war—has been hailed as the yardstick for other singers performing our national anthem. Whitney donated her proceeds from that performance to the American Red Cross Gulf Crisis Fund. When her rendition was rereleased in the wake of the September 11 attacks, Whitney donated those proceeds to firefighters and victims of the attacks.

For her many accomplishments, Whitney received numerous awards, including 6 Grammys, 2 Emmys, and 22 American Music Awards. But no achievement meant more to Whitney than the birth of her daughter Bobbi Kristina in 1993.

Though her loss will be felt far and wide, Whitney's powerful words—"I believe the children are our future. Teach them well and let them lead the way"—live on in New Jersey, across the country, and around the world.