From: George Lowery, Roosevelt University

Thank you.

I want to acknowledge my family, who are with me here today, and who have supported me in so many ways.

I am grateful that you somehow have seen fit to honor me with this Leadership Achievement Award. For the length of my educational career, Marquette University has been a source of strength, creativity, and inspiration.

So, in all honesty, this experience is for me, at least, much like a homecoming. And even were I not receiving this award, I can tell you that it always feels good to return to Marquette. As the years advance, the more one realizes just how important beginnings are in life.

What Marquette gave me early in my professional life was unique: the opportunity to collaborate closely and completely with remarkable students, faculty, and administrators, whose constant mission was to improve, to do better, to lift our energies, our expectations, our hopes, but most importantly, our deeds. For, ultimately, education is a practical art; it requires, at some point, getting down to business. And Marquette is a school which signifies just that and more, and I've never forgotten the lesson.

However, I must confess that in a larger sense, I realize that this award obviously is not just about me. What it really recognizes is the fiercely difficult work in advancing educational access, equity, and quality that many of us embarked on more than thirty years ago and which continues in ever more complex form today. It remains, all too often, bewildering work, resistant to serious change in public attitude, policy, and practice. Yet, it still is no less vital or critical to the communities we must try to serve.

Throughout my career, I have attempted, alongside so many others, to address some of our country’s most pressing social needs by working to improve the quality of education for everyone in our country, particularly for those who have the least resources to begin with. Remember, beginnings are important.

I'm not at all sure what path I might have taken without spending my formative years here at Marquette. I only can hope that current and future members of this community will value the incredible forces for good that reside here. They have made this country a better place. May it always be so.

With profound gratitude, I accept this award. Thank you very much.