

Distinguished guests,

Let me start by saying, on behalf of all of us at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), how honored we feel to be here this evening accepting this award.

For the last 22 years, we have been active in the field of philanthropy, committing over 2.6 billion USD through more than 4,000 grants, in over 120 countries around the globe. I would like to thank my great-uncle and Founder, the late Stavros Niarchos, for the opportunity he has provided to us to be able to try to do good. One of the most common and important denominators of a successful grant for us has always been the answer to the question of whether or not the grantee shares our overall values and vision, a common mission to do good and try to make the world, our world, a better place for all. Strong, efficient, and ethical leadership always leads to impactful collaborations. We view our grantees as partners, and we could not be happier being partners with the Institute of International Education (IIE).

Our collaboration began back in 2001, as IIE's Henry Kaufman, and our own Board Chairman at the time, Dennis Weatherstone, the late Sir Dennis, brought our organizations together. Our first collaboration involved supporting the establishment of the Global Education Technology Initiative. This was several years *before* the launching of Facebook, and I assure you that it was a cutting-edge project at the time. Within three years, it drew more than 800 institutions/members in 35 countries. In addition, our latest and ongoing collaboration is the Greek Diaspora Fellowship program. Four years ago, we became familiar with IIE's launching of a program based on a similar concept in the African continent. We are happy that IIE agreed to work with us and adapt this original idea enabling Greek academic diasporic communities to give back to the country of their origin, an effort that has acquired added significance during the destructive socioeconomic crisis that has engulfed Greece in the last decade.

IIE is turning 100 years old next year, happy early birthday! Its stated vision is QUOTE "At the Institute of International Education (IIE), we believe that when education transcends borders, it opens minds, enabling people to go beyond building connections to solving problems together. Our vision is a peaceful, equitable world enriched by the international exchange of ideas and greater understanding between people and cultures." END QUOTE, and its mission is QUOTE "to help people and organizations leverage the power of international education to thrive in today's interconnected world." END QUOTE

What else can anyone add?

This is exactly the kind of institutions that make America really great!

Allan Goodman, IIE's President and CEO, and everyone at the IIE should be very proud of the important and impactful work that IIE has done for almost a century now, all

around the world, promoting the multiplying positive effects of the power of international education. The Greek philologist and philosopher Emmanouil Kriaras, who passed away a few years ago at the young age of 108 years old, had said that being in love means being able to seek your ideals. There should be no doubt that Allan is surely in love!

It has been a privilege for the foundation to work with Allan—someone, whose depth of knowledge on foreign policy and the global higher education landscape is unparalleled. However, part of what makes Allan great to work with is what he offers beyond that. His leadership has allowed IIE to thrive, but as importantly, he remains compassionate and thoughtful about the challenges all of us as a society face here at home and abroad. Each year, the SNF hosts an annual philanthropy conference in Athens, Greece, and Allan has been generous to join us on several of these occasions. We can always rely on Allan and his team to elevate the conversation and contribute to a more thoughtful exchange of views all around.

Education is one of the SNF's four pillars of giving. This stems from an understanding that education is the only thing a person can receive that no one else can take away. There is a Greek proverb that loosely translated says: “get an education, and get your diploma; throw it into the river afterwards, but it will never go away”. The power that education can have in helping develop character and change an individual's life simply cannot be measured. We try our best to support as wide a range of people in as many parts of the world as we can—from students here in New York writing college admission essays to children in refugee camps learning to play musical instruments. We have supported Greek professionals continuing their training in fields that span journalism, orthopedics, diplomacy, and the arts. In addition, of course we have supported academics through fellowships like the IIE Greek Diaspora program. While we value and support education at every level, we recognize the special role of higher education and academia. In its purest form, it represents the pinnacle of human striving for knowledge, truth, and goodness.

In closing, I just wanted to humbly and respectfully borrow from Martin Luther King's words from his “I have a dream speech” back in August of 1963, and would like to expand upon them in order to reflect these current days of destructive polarization we are living in. It is not the color of our skin, it is not our gender, it is not our political or sexual preferences, it is not our social or financial status, it is not where we are coming from, but rather it is where we are going and how. It is all about the content of our character. It is our common responsibility of each one of us to try our best to do the right thing and work together for the common good.

We look forward to many more years of successful partnership and friendship.

Thank you!