

Good evening, everyone.

It's my good fortune to serve as the president of Ball State University, and it's a pleasure to welcome you to tonight's 10th anniversary celebration of our Charles W. Brown Planetarium.

We have an exceptionally beautiful campus. And this planetarium is one of our crown jewels. Every year, tens of thousands of visitors enter through these doors to gain a greater understanding of the beauty of space, the wonders of our planet, and the magic of our night sky.

Many of you know that our planetarium is the largest planetarium in Indiana.

This fact is certainly a pride point for our University. And I am also very proud of the commitment of our dedicated staff and volunteers who present the hundreds of shows hosted inside the planetarium each year.

I am grateful to Dayna Thompson for her guidance and support for all planetarium activities at our University for the past 12 years.

As the director of the planetarium, Dayna leads her staff in delivering the many outstanding free public programs that the planetarium offers each year. But what you may not know is that she also helps create some of the programs, which cover a wide range of topics, from the celestial origins of Halloween to Saturn's mysterious rings.

Dayna is innovative and courageous in her work. And on behalf of the University, she is committed to providing an excellent experience for every visitor to our planetarium, especially the many school children and community groups that visit each year. In this regard, Dayna embodies the enduring values represented by our iconic symbol of Beneficence.

Someone else who embodies our University's enduring values is Charlie Brown, a distinguished graduate of our Miller College of Business.

Charlie and his wife, Louise, are longtime benefactors of our University. They provided the lead gifts for this planetarium as well as our new outdoor amphitheater, which we dedicated last Fall. These gifts are in addition to the generous financial support they have provided to our students.

[PAUSE]

It was ten years ago this Fall that Charlie joined several university leaders to cut the ribbon on this planetarium that bears his name. On that day, I'm not sure that he—or anyone else attending that event—could have imagined the extent to which thousands of lives would be impacted by what they would experience under the dome of this remarkable building.

I wasn't there that day when Charlie saw his vision for this planetarium come to life. But I know from conversations we have had since that day that Charlie gives back to his alma mater out of a sense of gratitude. [PAUSE] Charlie is grateful for the education that our University provided to him—an education

that prepared him for a fulfilling career and meaningful life, which is the same outcome we want for all of our graduates.

And so today, we honor Charlie's generosity as we celebrate the many ways in which the Charles W. Brown Planetarium serves the members of our campus community and our friends and neighbors across East Central Indiana.

Charlie, thank you again for this transformational gift—a gift that continues to educate and inspire so many people in so many different ways.

I hope that, for many years to come, we can continue to welcome visitors of all ages to our planetarium—a special place where trips through space and time are made possible because of your extraordinary investment in our University's bright future.

[PAUSE]

I asked both Dayna and Charlie to speak this evening about the significance of this anniversary and about the impact that the planetarium has on our students and on our community.

Both of them have graciously agreed, and so I'd like to first invite Charlie to say a few words. Once he is finished, Dayna will step to the podium to deliver her own remarks.

**[CHARLIE AND DAYNA SPEAK, DAYNA INTRODUCES THE SHOW,
YOU RETURN TO THE PODIUM AFTER THE SHOW ENDS]**

Thank you, Dayna, for introducing us to that educational and entertaining show. I think we are all a little wiser about the moons in our solar system now as a result.

And thank you—all of you—for joining us to celebrate the mission of the Charles W. Brown Planetarium and this milestone anniversary.