

Lonnie L. Howard
Purpose of the Installation
Lamar State College-Orange (Dr. Thomas Johnson)
October 16, 2018

Thank you Janet. Everyone, let's give her a round of applause.

Good afternoon friends. I'm Lonnie Howard from Lamar Institute of Technology.

Installation (or Investiture) ceremonies have been around for 100s of years and are steeped within the annals of academic tradition. The purpose of today's Installation is to:

1. Hear greetings from internal/external stakeholders.
2. Provide a public venue for Chancellor McCall to give the 'Presidential Charge' conferring all of the rights, authority, and symbols of this noble office upon Dr. Johnson.
3. Give Dr. Johnson an opportunity to make his 1st Presidential Address.

Lastly, this Installation also serves to formally introduce Dr. Johnson.

Before I do...it's befitting we acknowledge his predecessor, Dr. Michael Shahan. Serving as president for nearly 24-years; Mike's legacy will forever be imprinted upon this college, community, and region. Let's give Dr. Shahan a round of applause.

I want to introduce Dr. Johnson by using excerpts from a speech that Mark Twain gave February 26, 1889 for his friend, Dr. George Smith, who was the President of Trinity College. When speaking about the qualities of Dr. Smith as a college president, Twain said:

Dignity, character, and executive ability; college presidents must be all that, and more! They must be [both] father and mother, mentors, and protectors of the exiled student. Their word, walk, and charm should be electric inspiring [all] to achieve honorable ambitions.

129-years ago, Mark Twain ended this speech by saying:

Those are the qualities of Dr. Smith; the President of Trinity College.

So I'll end this introduction (today) by saying:

Those are also the qualities of Dr. Thomas Allen Johnson; the new President of Lamar State College-Orange. Let's give him a round of applause.

Next, we'll hear from Dr. Metke.