

**Remarks from Drexel University President John A. Fry, on the event of the graduation of the inaugural ELATE at Drexel class of Fellows.**

On behalf of everyone at Drexel University, I congratulate this year's outstanding group of ELATE Fellows.

This experience began with a spark you recognized in yourself, something unique that made you aspire to leadership.

But even more than that spark, what sets you apart is the commitment you made to develop yourself as a leader.

I expect that your commitment began to pay off even as your fellowship year was ongoing.

And the impact will continue to grow in the years ahead.

The impact of your ELATE fellowship will grow for you, as you apply what you learn to your current role, and to new leadership opportunities that will open up for you.

The impact will also grow for your institution, as you take ownership of its goals and strategies and put your expanded skills to work.

The impact of your commitment will ripple out through academic engineering and the other fields in which you specialize, fields that will be immeasurably enriched by a new generation of woman leaders.

And your commitment will inspire and pave the way for those women and men who will view you as role models and follow in your footsteps.

So congratulations and thank you for taking this journey with Drexel and ELATE.

I want to welcome and thank the institutional leaders who participated in today's Leaders Forum.

There is an immense benefit to our fellows from spending this day with you, the members of a visionary community they are poised to join.

I hope that you will leave impressed with their work and their leadership qualities as well.

Let me take a moment to acknowledge the inspired work of Diane Magrane, director of ELATE at Drexel and executive director of our International Center for Executive Leadership in Academics, as well as her staff...

...the expert guidance provided by our distinguished advisory board...

...the foundations that have contributed to the success and reputation of ELATE, including the Henry B. Luce Foundation, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the National Science Foundation...

...and the generous gift of time and insight made by all of the program facilitators this year, right up to Alice Gast, my colleague at Lehigh University, one of the great leaders in American higher education, and today's eminent graduation speaker.

I hope that our graduating fellows found ELATE to be a life-changing experience, and that they will stay connected to the program, and take the opportunity to mentor future participants.

Thank you, and best wishes for the future.