

Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice Investiture Address:

I am humbled  
by the trust and confidence  
of the Morehouse School of Medicine Board of Trustees  
for this honor.

Thank you.

I appreciate the opportunity today  
to stand under the shade of a tree  
that I did not plant.  
This honored and sacred ground  
was nurtured and cultivated by many who came before me.  
Those like former Morehouse School of Medicine presidents  
Louis W. Sullivan,  
James A. Goodman,  
James Gavin III,  
David Satcher  
and John Maupin  
who nourished this medical meadowland.

I am grateful for their contributions  
to the School of Medicine  
and their legacy of fervent leadership.

To my teachers,  
Ms. Neubold,  
Faircloth,

Ella Mae Cater

and Mr. Charles Cook,

just to name a few

who brought science alive in the classroom and taught me to love the role it could play in my life.

Jayne and Melvin III;  
and yes happy birthday, Melvin III,  
thank you for sharing your birthday today with me.

I would like to take a moment and ask them all to please stand.

To my sorors of  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated,  
my Link Sisters,  
and my dear friends  
who have supported me through tears,  
love  
and laughter,  
I say thank you  
for adding to the richness of my life.

Thank you to the platform guests  
who have impacted my life  
in so many ways,  
shepherding me toward this day.

I want to extend a special thank you  
to Dr. Robert Franklin for presiding  
over this investiture ceremony.  
Robert and Cheryl Franklin  
have been friends of Melvin and me  
since our early days at Harvard Medical School.  
We have shared so many memories together:  
the births of our children;  
the christening of Jayne at Danforth Chapel; and many vacations  
that we now get to take with each other,



Today we are gathered in the Chapel  
that bears the name of a man

on which Morehouse School of Medicine was built.

Today

our charge is to become a leader

in closing the health

this country will face a serious shortage  
of both primary care  
and other medical specialists  
to care for an aging and growing population.

This year

we enrolled our largest class of 78 students, and we will focus on expanding to 100 medical  
students  
with a 20% increase in our biomedical and public health students by 2017.

Continuing to increase

the number of mission-conscious health care professionals  
will require enhanced recruiting efforts  
and innovative medical education programs. It will include training  
compassionate professionals  
who are committed  
to the holistic treatment of patients  
and not just their medical condition.

Our recruiting efforts

must include cognitive diversity  
in the selection of those

in underserved communities,



enforcement  
and evaluation.

s has a profound effect on every aspect of her or his

life,

yet nearly 1 in 4 Americans  
do not have a primary care provider  
and people without medical insurance  
are more likely to skip routine medical care that increases their risk  
for more serious health conditions.

We can thank the Obama Administration  
for the Affordable Care Act  
that has improved access to quality care and makes health care coverage possible for many  
Americans  
in order to reduce disparities in health care.

The president has proposed  
\$14.6 billion for health care training  
in his 2015 budget plan.  
It includes more than \$5 billion  
over 10 years  
to train 13,000 doctors to serve in underserved areas.

His budget also proposed  
nearly \$4 billion  
over six years  
for medical students to receive scholarships and loan repayment assistance  
in return for serving in communities  
with high medical needs.

In addition,

President Obama is expected to seek more than \$5 billion in increased payments to providers who serve Medicaid patients.

Increasing access to routine health services and health insurance are vital steps in improving the health of all Americans and specifically minority communities.

We understand that health status and health behaviors are determined by personal, institutional, environmental, and policy influences.

Educational and community-based programs over the next decade will continue to contribute to improving health outcomes in the United States.

We at Morehouse School of Medicine recognized years ago that education and community-based programs must reach out to people outside of traditional health care facilities.

That is why we have trained over 75 community-based physicians to participate in clinical research, and why we have one of the first mobile research vans that actually goes *into* the community.

Our community engagement must be broad, comprehensive and substantive like the Community Voices under our Satcher Health Leadership Institute that addresses Prison Health and Reentry Support Programs, Obesity and Diabetes Prevention Programs,







with humility.

The character of a person  
is tested when they find themselves vulnerable to a system  
or a person  
who can determine a particular outcome  
in their life.

The humility in which a physician engages with patients  
can either rob them of their dignity  
or elevate their spirit of hope.

We also value our relationships  
with federal agencies  
like our friends and colleagues  
at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,  
the National Institutes of Health,

working in a paper factory;  
and siblings all less than three years apart. But the Georgia public school system was my  
lifeline.

I believe it can be that same lifeline  
for many other Georgia children  
who have a curiosity for knowledge.

Georgia public school systems  
to assist in advancing STEAM:  
science, technology, engineering,  
arts, and math.

We want to partner with companies  
like Georgia Power  
and its workforce development programs. Creating the next generation of health care  
professionals  
begins with stimulating a passion  
for learning  
and a hunger for discovery  
in young children.

Some of these kids will become technicians; some will become nurses;  
some will become MSM students  
and some will work at places

and invested together  
in a shared vision.

For those students  
who come to MSM for medical school  
or residency training,  
we will continue to show the return  
on our state operating grant investment

by the 60 percent of our graduates  
who practice in Georgia  
and the more than 65 percent  
who choose primary care  
or core need specialties.

Thank you to the Governor  
and the Georgia legislature  
for supporting our mission  
through a state operation grant  
that allows us to educate and train professionals  
who are standing and leading  
in the elimination of health care disparities.

***And last,***

***research***

Great research

makes for a great medical institution. Research programs can provide the basis for innovative  
models for teaching

and for community partnerships

that are essential to meeting

the health challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

We all understand that

resources are limited

and medical schools have to focus their research

to closely align with their mission.



Well that is good news for us  
because Morehouse School of Medicine has already seen success  
in our nationally recognized  
neuroscience and cardiovascular research programs.

In the last five years,  
we have concentrated our research  
in four key areas:

*cancer,*  
*cardiovascular disease,*  
*neurological disease*  
*and infectious diseases.*

Why?

Because we know these diseases  
have the highest rates of disparity  
and by making an impact in those areas,  
we can begin leveling health equity  
across the board.

We have to continue  
to produce groundbreaking research combined with innovative improvements  
if we are to make that research translational.





from their peak

from 1950-2000.

7 of the 9 conditions required all three elements of the triangulation model research innovation,

public health / health promotion,

and medical care

to achieve that success.

The success stories

typically consisted of a research innovation

for example

the invention of the pap smear--diffused through the dual channels of public health

for example, promoting screenings for cervical cancer and then medical care

for example primary care delivering most Pap smears and specialty care doing the colpo/biopsy and Rx.

We noted that most often

the dual channels of public health and medical care worked in parallel,

but not in partnership,

A cautionary note unequal diffusion of new lifesaving treatments

often worsens the disparities between more advantaged and less advantaged segments of the population,

as in antiretroviral treatment of HIV, unless we pay attention to equity.

And this is why the world needs  
Morehouse School of Medicine.

**Benjamin Franklin said,**

**until those who are unaffected  
are as outraged as those who are**

It is not unconscionable to question costs and quality of care  
in this new health care environment.

Cost is a reasonable qualifier.

But our moral challenge

is to be impassioned enough

to be outraged by the enormous equity gap between the haves  
and the have-nots.

At Morehouse School of Medicine,  
we have always known and believed  
that addressing health needs

is a moral obligation

because health is essential

to our existence and to our quality of life. There is no moral ambiguity

in our responsibility to humanity.

My hope for health care equity in this country

will not be accomplished by my vision

and my will alone.

But this great and historic institution

can be the catalyst that activates

that vision and will.

Our greatest asset lies in the professionals we train

whose care and commitment

illuminate our highest calling.

Knowledge,

Wisdom,

Excellence

and Service

are the tenets that will propel us

from good to great.

However,



such as consistently sharing the stories of our success  
and of challenges,  
and inviting partners to join us.

We have to inform them  
honestly and transparently  
about our circumstances  
and let them know when giving  
can make the difference  
between failure and success.

As you know,  
I have been extremely vocal  
about this inauguration focusing  
on raising money for scholarships  
to support our students  
thereby decreasing the debt they incur  
to attend Morehouse School of Medicine. On average,  
our students come from families  
with household incomes of \$45,000  
when the average medical student  
in this country comes from a family



whose household income is \$175,000.

So we asked hundreds of alumni and friends to join us

in raising \$1.5 million dollars

for the Presidential Scholarship Initiative. Today,

I am proud to announce

that you answered the call.

You stepped up

and we have raised a total of \$2.7 million

in gifts and pledges

to the Presidential Scholarship Initiative.

*You* made the difference!

You have my abiding  
and enduring allegiance  
that I am prepared for this  
and will steer this ship  
under my watch with grace.

We are partners in this exciting new venture,  
and I am honored to be at the helm  
as we journey together  
in pursuit of excellence.

THANK YOU