

(July 29, 2005) HONORING DON RANDEL, PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

HONORING DON RANDEL, PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO ON BECOMING PRESIDENT OF THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION

Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Don Michael Randel, President of the University of Chicago, on his recent acceptance to the appointment as the president of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Under his leadership of Don Randel, the University of Chicago has undergone a major process of rejuvenation through one of the most successful fundraising ventures in the university's history. With new building additions and upgraded research facilities, the University of Chicago enhanced its reputation of being one of the leading research institutions in the world.

With over three decades of commitment to the arts and humanities, along with being the president of one of the top universities in the nation, Don Randel has made himself an outstanding candidate for the position to serve the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Before becoming president of the University of Chicago, Don Randel served the community of Cornell University for 32 years as a music professor, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and most prestigiously as the provost of Cornell University. For the past 5 years, Don Randel has served the University of Chicago, leading many efforts to improve and enhance the academics as well as the university's fundraising program.

The Mellon Foundation was established in 1969 through the consolidation of the Old Dominion Foundation and the Avalon Foundation. It makes grants principally in five core areas: higher education and scholarship, library and scholarly communications, conservation and the environment, museums and art conservation, and the performing arts.

It is my honor to recognize Don Michael Randel for his many achievements both within and outside of the academic community, fostering the growth of a leading research institution, and helping create change and promote progress in today's society.