



GREETINGS BY

THE HONOURABLE JEROME K. FITZGERALD

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

AT THE

**UNIVERSITY OF THE BAHAMAS
SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
AT**

**CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
SUNDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER, 2016**

3:00 P.M.

Good Afternoon. This is truly a day to give God thanks and praise. This service of thanksgiving marks the start of a week of activities culminating with the Charter Day ceremony on November 10th 2016 where the College of the Bahamas will become the University of The Bahamas or UB as it will be commonly be referred to.

I am grateful that God's hand is stamped all over this transition and that he saw fit that I along with countless Bahamians played a significant role in this historic moment in our history. Persons like myself, Prime Minister Perry Christie, Alfred Sears, Franklyn Wilson, Dr Earl Cash and President Smith will no doubt be remembered in the annals of history, but it's the countless other nameless and faceless persons who toiled long hours in this process who deserve recognition as well. I simply have the singular honour and privilege as Minister to completing the fulfilment of a dream that began in 1977 but pursued in earnest in 2002.

I believe in the collective genius of our people and I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the faculty who demand nothing but the best from their students. I implore you to continue to give of yourselves for the benefit of our beloved country.

To the staff, thank you for your commitment, may you continue to embody knowledge, truth and integrity; the tenets upon which the College was built and the pillars on which the University of The Bahamas will stand.

Having had the opportunity to attend schools in the United States of America, Canada and Europe, I have a deep appreciation for the value of education. I have come to recognize that there is no great city anywhere in the world that does not boast of a world class university. The city of Nassau and by extension The Bahamas, now falls in that esteemed body. I firmly believe that our country's future growth, success and sustainability is inextricably linked to the university of The Bahamas and what it will accomplish and inspire on an individual, national and international level.

It is my desire that every single young person in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas would have a desire to pursue tertiary education; be it academic, technical or vocational. It is time for us to truly make education a core value and to engrain in the hearts and minds of our citizens that education is the most valuable asset to any human being.

Education remains the most powerful weapon to alleviate poverty, fight crime, eradicate unemployment and comprehensively address many of the social ills that plague our communities.

I am confident that as a Country we are heading in the right direction with the establishment of the University of The Bahamas. It is not an end, but a new beginning. The University will constantly experience change and continue to evolve as it remains on the cutting edge and solidifies itself as a relevant and academic force to be reckoned with locally, regionally and globally.

It is my solemn prayer that all that is done and accomplished at the University of The Bahamas is done to the honour and glory of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Thank you.