

Grand Opening of the Porter Family Indoor Performance Facility

Remarks delivered by USF President Rhea Law

January 10, 2023

Thank you, Caylee. I am delighted to welcome everyone to this very exciting event. What a great way to start the new year.

Today we celebrate the opening of a transformational facility – one that would not have been possible without our loyal supporters, donors and friends.

I'd like to take a moment to recognize our elected officials who joined us for this lovely celebration. Thank you to City of Tampa Mayor Jane Castor, City of Tampa Chief of Staff John Bennett, and USF Alumnus and Florida House Representative Kevin Steele. Your support of our university and our athletics program is greatly appreciated.

And of course, I would also like to take a moment to recognize J.D. Porter and the entire Porter family for their significant contribution in naming this beautiful facility, which will elevate our university community and the performance of our incredible student-athletes.

Altogether, more than 500 donors contributed \$22 million to this project – the highest total for any fundraising project in USF Athletics history.

Let's have a round of applause for all our very generous donors.

I also want to thank Michael Kelly and Jay Stroman for their vision and leadership.

Let me add that the support of the USF Foundation Board and USF Alumni Association Board was critical to the success of this project.

The Porter Family Indoor Performance Facility reflects USF's deep institutional commitment to athletics and the success of our students – a commitment that is shared by Chair Will Weatherford and the USF Board of Trustees.

In fact, we are investing in USF Athletics in ways we never have before.

As I've said throughout my time as president, I believe that a university's intercollegiate athletics program helps cultivate a deep sense of community and serves as the front door to the institution.

A strong athletics program provides our students and our alumni with opportunities to come together and share their passion for our great university. It brings the community in and allows us to raise the visibility of all the wonderful things we have to offer across our academic and research enterprise.

And as we rise in our academic stature and continue to rise as a research powerhouse, we need to rise in our athletics programs.

Together with his staff, Michael Kelly has developed an outstanding roadmap for the expansion and enhancement of athletics and the USF Athletics District.

Of course, that includes a project that is on everyone's mind – the on-campus stadium.

While it will have a tremendous impact on *all* of USF's athletics programs, the on-campus stadium will also give our alumni and community members a compelling reason to come back to campus and strengthen their connection to our university.

For our 500 student-athletes, the Porter Family Indoor Performance Facility provides an ideal environment to train and compete throughout the year – rain or shine.

And it gives all our students beautifully designed spaces to connect with one another and the broader community.

At USF, we have tremendous energy, momentum, and spirit. As I often say, when we link arms and move forward together, there is nothing we can't accomplish. This facility is a wonderful example of USF and our community joining forces to achieve meaningful goals.

Thank you, again, to the leadership teams at the USF Foundation and USF Athletics, and to our dedicated donors for their generous support.

Thanks to all of you for joining us. As always – Go Bulls!

Now, please join me in welcoming the Chair of the University of South Florida Board of Trustees, Will Weatherford.