

President Rao, alumni stars being recognized tonight, and guest at this wonderful event, it is an honor to be here tonight with my family; wife Maria (VCU Pharmacy 1995), daughter Helena (VCU student in the Health Preparation and Professional Science program and a trumpet player in the VCU pep band), daughter Hope (Cosby high school junior) {comment: President Rao I'm working on her to become a Ram and if successful I'll be looking for that family discount on tuition}, and my parents Frank and Eleanor.

I am humbled to be recognized by VCU and the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs with this award.

Over the past 19 years I have had the opportunity to be a student, a teacher, a business partner, and faculty colleague with the Wilder School's Master of Public Administration Program. I have the honor to be a member of the Wilder School's Excellence in Virginia Government Award Program. I am privileged that the MPA faculty has trusted me with chairing the MPA Alumni group. I have also had the opportunity to work closely with the VCU Performance Management Group through its Virginia Executive and Commonwealth Managers Institutes. These associations have truly made me feel part of the VCU team.

I attribute much of my public sector career achievements and success to the academic curriculum, faculty, other VCU MPA alums, and VCU's outstanding University reputation.

I look forward to continuing my relationship with VCU, and the Wilder School of Government to do my part as an Alumnus promoting and supporting the success of the School, other Alumni, and students.

Thank you, Go Rams!!