Inauguration Remarks
J. David Carson ’72, Chair of the Coe College Board of Trustees
March 14, 2014

Today is a very special occasion in the history of Coe College. Former Coe President Joe McCabe, in his book, “A Coe College Memoir,” quotes an observation from Edmund Burke – “He who will not look backward with reverence will not look forward with hope.”

Williston Jones was a Presbyterian minister in upstate New York who met a farmer one Sunday, named Daniel Coe, and asked him for support in preparing his students for Princeton. Daniel Coe borrowed $1,500, gave it to Jones, and said in effect – “build your own college out there in Iowa.”

To our students, Coe is the name of their college, but the name Coe to Williston Jones was the man who motivated him to establish a liberal arts college in the frontier town of Cedar Rapids.

To quote the founder of Ford Motor Company, Henry Ford, the company I spent my career with – “coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress and working together is success” - and this applies to the entire Coe community attending today’s ceremony.

Since Coe College was founded back in 1851, over the last 163 years we have had 31 individuals hold the title of President of the United States, while Coe College during its rich history has had about half that number with the title of President. The last time Coe held an Inauguration was in December 1996. Today, we are installing Dave McInally as the 15th President of Coe College.

The most important role of the Board of Trustees is the appointment of a new president when the time comes as it did when President James Phifer announced his retirement would be effective July 1, 2013.

We looked for a president that demonstrated leadership qualities, persuasive communication skills, one that would inspire trust and confidence, an individual that is believable and one that delivers results. A leader drives constructive change and creates a new reality, and courage is the cornerstone of good leadership.

A quote attributed to President Theodore Roosevelt is, “people don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care” probably sums up what our Search Committee, headed by former Board Chair, Gene Henderson, saw in Dave McInally. Dave McInally has displayed this quality from the first time we met.

At this time I would like the 15th President of Coe College, Dave McInally, to please come forward for you investiture.