



Remarks for Wisdom Tettey
SAMIH Ministry Announcement
March 22, 2022

Good afternoon everyone, and thank you, Minister Dunlop, Minister Sarkaria, Minister Cho, and MPP for Scarborough-Rouge Park, Mr. Vijay Thanigasalam for honoring us with your presence.

We are grateful to everyone who has joined us this afternoon.

On behalf of President Gertler and whole University of Toronto community, I extend a warm UTSC welcome to all of you!

As we gather at this location of the future home of the Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health, I want to start by reiterating our commitment to place and to acknowledge the Indigenous peoples of our region on whose lands the University of Toronto operates across its three campuses and other facilities.

For thousands of years, the lands have been the traditional home of many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island. We are grateful for the opportunity to learn, work, and engage our communities on these lands for mutual success.

I speak for the University, for our campus community, and for the larger Scarborough community in conveying our gratitude to the government of Ontario for its support of SAMIH. We are truly thrilled about the possibilities that this support enables. For that, we are grateful to you.

The Academy is a collaboration among three academic divisions at U of T - University of Toronto Scarborough, the Temerty Faculty of Medicine, and the Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing – in partnership with hospitals, community health centers, and health networks in our region. This is truly a coming together of community to make sure we are able to serve our community in the best way possible.

Slated to open in 2025, the Academy is unique in its commitment to a co-located, integrated, inter-professional and inclusive approach to educating the next generation of health human resources professionals. Learners will be embedded within local hospitals, primary care facilities, and community agencies, and would stay and practise right here in our region, thereby helping to address the acute healthcare needs of our underserved communities.

Many of these learners will be talented individuals intentionally drawn from our neighbourhoods, reflecting our diverse communities. This will enable us to serve our population the best way possible, and not just for the immediate term, but over a long period of time.

The Academy will also partner with our newly established Institute for Inclusive Health Research to undertake and to apply cutting edge scholarship that is globally resonant and locally relevant, drawing on our institution's wealth of expertise in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and health sciences.

SAMIH is yet another manifestation of UTSC's vision of being an embodiment of inclusive excellence, a bold community of conscientious and adaptable global leaders in scholarship, innovation, teaching and learning, and community engagement who constructively disrupt the status quo, connect the world, and advance transformative change for the good of all.

We look forward to working together with all partners to advance this vision and to deliver our shared values and commitment to building inclusive, sustainable, resilient communities in our region, our province and by extension, the world.

It is my pleasure to call on MPP Thanigasalam to share some remarks.

Thank you.