

Remarks for Press Conference – 10/19/2011

Good morning. Thank you, Mayor Bloomberg, for inviting me to join you as we celebrate the future of senior centers. More importantly, thank you for your leadership in bringing innovative senior centers from a dream, to implementation. I dare say that, in these difficult fiscal times, it took courage to stay the course.

Innovative senior centers was a recommendation from CSCS's award-winning study of senior centers, the largest of its kind. Today it is being put into operation. The study was undertaken as the Mayor's vision of an age-friendly city was being developed and it sought to change the conversation around the delivery of senior services.

We expect these innovative senior centers will do just that. They will be testing what works best for New York's older population. That will help ALL 256 centers in the City and reflects the Mayor's commitment to the entire network of senior centers and the seniors they serve.

I want to acknowledge CSCS's Director of Public Policy Bobbie Sackman for her tireless efforts on behalf of this initiative. Out of this laboratory will come senior centers that serve underserved populations and others that will test ways to streamline how existing centers operate.

I want to again thank Mayor Bloomberg and his team, Deputy Mayor Linda Gibbs and Commissioner Lilliam Barrios-Paoli, for their commitment to this project. I

know you join me in looking forward to the exciting outcomes that lie ahead, all of which will have been made possible by a powerful partnership that included government, foundations and the non-profit sector. This partnership is an example of what can be accomplished when a good idea meets good will and determination.