

August 6, 2018

Joe Urgo  
Interim Chancellor  
203 Phillips Hall, CPO 1400  
1 University Heights  
Asheville, NC 28804

Dear Chancellor Urgo and Colleagues,

I'm writing to thank you and congratulate you on the work of your STEAM Studio team in constructing and installing *Wake*, the amazing project which is part of the Times Square Arts program.

Large numbers of people stop, stare, think (I hope!) and make themselves at home in the sculpture's ribs. While your team has returned to North Carolina along with Mel Chin, their collective impact is still here and being felt.

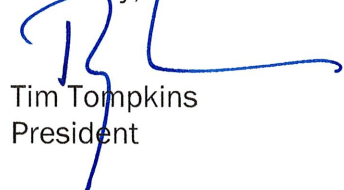


Wake is the largest public art installation ever in Times Square. With a tight work space and so many people, a huge installation is also a huge challenge, but it became obvious it was a challenge for which your team was well prepared. It was remarkable how smoothly the installation went, at least from the Times Square Alliance perspective. Everyone from our staff to the crane operators commented on the STEAM team's diligence, skill, attention to detail, and pace of work while never disregarding safety and always cleaning up after themselves. Damian Santucci, Director of Production, said that "of all the crews we have worked with they were the best".

Additionally, your team was always willing to engage with passers-by (we have up to 450,000 people per day passing through Times Square!). They explained their process and the vision of the work - they were construction workers doubling as docents. We appreciate that they were great ambassadors for Times Square, and you should know that they were excellent ambassadors for UNC Asheville.

Thank you again, and congratulations.

Sincerely,



Tim Tompkins  
President

CC: Chancellor Nancy Cable  
Karin Peterson, Interim Provost  
Mahmut Reyhanoglu, Chair of Engineering  
Herman Holt, Dean of Natural Sciences  
Wiebke Strehl, Dean of Humanities  
Sara Sanders, Director, STEAM Studio  
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