

RYAN C. MARABLE

University of Cincinnati Alumni Association Jeffrey Hurwitz Young Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award

Ryan C. Marable, PharmD, Phar '13
Acceptance Remarks | April 16, 2026

First and foremost, thank you to the University of Cincinnati Alumni Association for this incredible honor.

I've been fortunate to receive several awards since leaving campus after eight years, but this one is especially meaningful — because it comes from the institution that helped shape who we are today: the University of Cincinnati.

My brother James, UC Class of 2006 — and the main reason I chose Cincinnati — I texted him and asked, "What should I say tonight?" In true big brother fashion, he sent me a full speech. But what stood out most was this: "Tell them why you decided to stay."

In the early 1940s, enrollment and retention of African American pharmacy students declined significantly. In 1947, the National Pharmaceutical Association (NPhA) was founded by 45 Black pharmacists under the leadership of Dean Chauncey Cooper of Howard University. Their mission: to serve the underserved and promote minority representation in pharmacy.

In 1975, leaders in Southwest Ohio formed the Cincinnati Pharmaceutical Association (CinPhA). That same year, UC's College of Pharmacy partnered with CinPhA to increase minority student retention and build a more inclusive workforce — leading to the hiring of Ruby Hill as one of the nation's first Directors of Minority Recruitment. She served nearly 20 years.

That legacy continued through leaders like Dr. Pat Achoe, Dr. Bengy Mitchell, Dean Andrea Wall, and current Dean Christopher Surratt. That early, intentional commitment to inclusion is what kept me at UC — and made me proud to walk boldly as a Bearcat.

To my family—my beautiful wife Ashleigh—thank you for your love, your patience, and your grace in the midst of our busy lives. I love you deeply. To my babies, Fox and Drew — Daddy loves you. Thank you for sharing me with all these people. Vacation on three...1, 2, 3... they love vacation.

To my parents — Mom, Dad — thank you from the bottom of my heart. To my bonus parents, Tonya and Mike — thank you for your constant support.

It's easy to celebrate moments like this — dress up, attend fancy events, and reflect on our collective accomplishments. But every opportunity comes with a responsibility. And that responsibility is leadership.

Leadership isn't stepping up when things are easy.

It's standing firm when things are uncertain.

To the students, alumni, and leaders in this room who may be facing doubt or pressure — I leave you with this:

Keep your faith.

Trust your purpose.

And lead with boldness — even when the outcome isn't clear.

Because sometimes the very thing that feels impossible... is just waiting on someone willing to believe.

We're living in a time where leadership is challenged across every sector—government, healthcare, education, business. It's not easy. But don't be afraid to fail. Failure is part of the process.

And when you do mess up — don't make excuses. Don't point fingers. Own it.

My daughter has a magic word that gets her out of trouble. You might want to try it — it works.

That word is: "whoooops."

Seriously — stay inspired. Enjoy your journey. And walk boldly in your pursuit of excellence.

Thank you very much, UC Alumni family. Go Bearcats.

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