Opening Message

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Dear colleagues, distinguished members of the American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences, dear friends,

Although I cannot be with you in person this year in Brașov, I wanted to take a moment to express how meaningful this Congress is to me and to our Academy. The ARA Congress has always been more than an academic gathering. It is a reunion of minds, cultures, generations, and shared values. It is a place where science meets humanity, where ideas become collaborations, and where friendships formed across countries and disciplines continue to inspire us year after year.

As someone who was born in Romania and whose journey later continued across Europe and the United States, ARA has always represented something deeply personal to me - the idea that no matter where life takes us, we remain connected through knowledge, culture, purpose, and a shared desire to contribute to something greater than ourselves.

There is also something profoundly symbolic about gathering in Brașov - a city filled with history, beauty, resilience, and academic spirit. In many ways, it reflects the very identity of our Academy: rooted in tradition, yet always looking toward the future.

At a time when the world often feels divided and uncertain, gatherings like this remind us why communities like ARA matter. They remind us that education, research, innovation, art, and human connection still have the power to build bridges across borders and generations.

Last year, it was my great honor to serve as Congress Chair for our 46th Congress at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in the United States. Seeing the passion, talent, and dedication of our members only strengthened my belief that the future of ARA is incredibly bright - especially as we continue to engage younger scholars, emerging leaders, and international collaborators who will carry this mission forward.

As Vice President of the Academy, I feel both gratitude and hope. Gratitude for those who built this remarkable community over nearly five decades, and hope for what we will continue to build together in the years ahead.

Even from afar, I am with you in spirit.

I wish you an inspiring Congress filled with meaningful conversations, new ideas, renewed friendships, and the kind of inspiration that reminds us why our work truly matters.

Mulțumesc și vă transmit cele mai bune gânduri din Louisiana.