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Sculpture Tour Remarks

John M. Dunn

Western Michigan University, john.dunn@wmich.edu

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Sculpture Tour Remarks
John M. Dunn, President
July 2007

During my interview at Western Michigan University, I was quite pleased to see the interesting display throughout the campus of outdoor sculpture. The message to me was quite clear – this is a University that appreciates and celebrates art! Although I have been President but a short time, I have come to learn more about the Western Michigan University Sculpture Tour. The inception of the program by Professor Phillip VanderWeg and the early endorsement provided by former President Haenicke is a wonderful gift to Western Michigan University, its faculty, staff, and students and the thousands of annual visitors to campus. The idea and the energy behind the annual tour have been sustained over time and it has become a fixture that brings tribute and recognition to WMU.

The “new” sculptures will be part of our campus for a period of approximately two years. I encourage you to take time to tour and to admire the various pieces. Please join with me in extending a special thanks to Professor VanderWeg and his colleagues in the Gwen Frostic School of Art for reminding us once again of the relationship between the quality of life, the environment, and the aesthetics of various art forms. The sculptures enrich our campus and provide an opportunity to pause, ponder, reflect and yes, critique.

Special thanks to the artists and others who helped to make the Sculpture Tour possible. We are indebted to them for sharing their talent with all who walk the WMU campus.