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New Student Open House Comments

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New Student Open House Comments
President John M. Dunn
Nov. 5, 2007

Greetings!

Thank you for being here and taking this next critical step in advancing your education.

We are delighted that you are here and we appreciate and value your commitment to WMU. I assure you that our goal is to provide an excellent return on your investment.

We know that individuals with a college degree significantly increase their earning power and their overall contributions to society.

Your decision to study here is a wise choice:

- We offer an outstanding education in a beautiful environment
- We have status - Research university, one of 199 public universities with that distinction
- As a doctoral granting research university, we expect our faculty to excel in three areas: teaching, scholarship and service
- We offer a comprehensive range of 230 programs. Majors that can lead to exciting careers such as Business, Engineering, Music, Languages, Cinema/Journalism, Art, Education, Aviation, Health Careers, Science and many, many others
- Phi Beta Kappa, one of 97 public universities in U.S.

- We offer a rich cluster of programs and activities that enhance and contribute to student development through our residential living programs, clubs, intramurals, club sports, student government and the *Western Herald*
- We offer a first-class education at a very attractive price. Our students graduate with one of the lowest debt rates of any major institution in the USA
- We have 105 years of success. We are a known entity. We have over 170,000 alumni who are spread throughout the world, working in government, industry, business, education, law, health/medicine--in fact, in almost any line of work you can imagine
- We are student friendly. We are large, but we care about you.

Some friendly advice:

- Go to class
- Get to know your instructor and advisor
- Ask questions. Do it early, not late!
- Stretch. Move beyond your interest. Take a broad range of courses.
- Take advantage of the new “growth opportunities”:
 - Make new friends
 - Participate in campus life
 - Enjoy, respect and value the diversity here
- Work is not a bad thing!
- Remember your roots -- Mom, Dad, other loved ones

- Be grateful!

To all those who have set the stage for your success: high school teachers, coaches, clergy, counselors and friends

To parents and grandparents who give you guidance, encouragement and, most likely, financial support

To WMU professors and staff who dedicate their lives to teaching, learning and preparing you for a productive, fulfilling future

Finally, be grateful you are here today, in this country where freedoms are plentiful, where education is cherished and available to all students who prepared well and who study hard.

Remember, our goal is for you to succeed; we take pride in seeing you graduate!

We are here to help you and are delighted that you have given us the opportunity to play a significant role in your life and future development.

We measure our success one student at a time!