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Inauguration of John M. Dunn Western Michigan University Eighth President

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INAUGURATION OF JOHN M. DUNN
WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
EIGHTH PRESIDENT
MONDAY, March 24, 2008
4 P.M. - - MILLER AUDITORIUM

PROCESSIONAL

(Begins after trumpeters come down to stage from grand tier)

ORDER OF PROCESSIONAL

1. Faculty
2. Administration and Visiting Dignitaries
3. Platform Party

Chair Miller:

“Good afternoon, and welcome to the inauguration of John M. Dunn, as the eighth president of Western Michigan University. I am Ken Miller, chair of the University’s Board of Trustees. It is my honor and pleasure to serve as the master of ceremonies today as we formally install Dr. Dunn as our chief executive officer.

This is wonderful occasion made so in part by all of you coming to be with us today. We are especially happy and honored to see Linda Dunn and so many of the members of the Dunn family and friends (front rows). Thank you all for being a part of the memorable event in the history of our University.

As most of you know, the Board of Trustees conducted a national search for a president starting in the fall of 2006. I was honored to have chaired that Presidential Search Advisory Committee. Almost the entire Committee is present today (and six of us are here on stage) and I wish to again publicly thank each of them for their dedication and service. As part of the search we looked closely at the credentials of many worthy candidates. After months of diligent effort we arrived at one, clear, unanimous choice: John M. Dunn. On April 27, 2007 the Committee recommended and the Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Dunn to the top job. He commenced his duties on July 1, 2007.

Coincidentally, one year ago today I met John for the first time. His obvious impressive academic and administrative credentials clearly caught our attention. But it was the manner in which he presented himself that truly captivated the Committee. After 3 long days in a windowless room in the Detroit airport and after 12 previous interviews we were down to our last candidate. It was a late Sunday afternoon and while I did not fear a mutiny I felt that the Committee had already gone above and beyond, and in fairness to our final interview, was being asked to again give it their all. John made it easy. He captivated the Committee from the moment he walked into the room. From the beginning he was approachable, energetic, enthusiastic, articulate, dynamic, forceful, insightful and ATTENTIVE. He listened closely for two hours to our questions and answered specifically and directly. John brought those same qualities with him to the campus/community visit a couple of weeks later.

As an aside, I would like to relate a brief account of my telephone call to John to inform him of the Board's selection. It was also a Sunday, about noon, when I called the cell phone number John had given. In a whisper he said "Hello" and informed me that he was in a prayer session at his church. When I apologized for the interruption he kindly said not to worry and, because he recognized who was calling, he wanted to find out if his prayers were being answered. Turns out they were and it happened on Linda's birthday as well.

Since assuming his duties on July 1st we have gotten to know John as a person of rare openness, sincerity and poise---and he still listens and remains approachable! Already Dr. Dunn has met the challenge of a number of major decisions and initiatives. But he also has accomplished something else, perhaps less tangible but no less significant. He has set a tone on our campus and in our community that welcomes both interest and support.

It is a tone of warmth, kindness and friendship that I sense in all of my associations with and for the University. And I sense it directly from John himself—and from his wife Linda, who has established herself as our University’s preeminent ambassador of good will. It is this tone that has done so much to establish a firm foundation for the important work that lies ahead as we continue to build this great University.

John and Linda, welcome, we are truly happy you are here.”

Chair Miller:

“Please rise, as able, for the National Anthem, sung by the men of The University Chorale.”

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Chair Miller:

“I will be introducing the men and women on my right who will be speaking to you about our president, but first I would like to introduce members of the Board of Trustees who are with us today—please hold your applause until the introductions have been completed. **(each rises as introduced)**

Trustee and Vice Chair Bill Martin

Trustees: Dennis Archer
Jeanne Carlson
Sarah DeNooyer
Bill Johnston
Dan Pero
Larry Tolbert
Trustees Emeriti: Lana Boldi
George Franklin
Julius Franks, Jr.
Joan Krause
Carol Waszkiewicz

Trustee Miller: And now, a tribute to President Dunn by
State Senator Thomas George, M.D.”

Senator George: (Delivers tribute and returns to seat)

Chair Miller: “Representing the City of Kalamazoo is
Mayor Bobby Hopewell and the City of
Portage, Mayor Pete Strazdas.”

Mayors Hopewell & Strazdas: (Deliver tributes at podium and return to
their seats)

WESTERN FANFARE
The Western Brass Ensemble

Chair Miller: “Christopher Praedel, President, Western
Student Association and Rosana Alsaud,

Chair, Graduate Student Advisory
Committee, will speak on behalf of the
University student body.”

Mr. Praedel and Ms. Alsaud: (Deliver tributes at podium and return to
their seats)

Chair Miller: “William Emmert, Officer, Administrative
Professional Association, and Carrie Soule,
President, Professional Support Staff
Organization, representing the staff of the
University.”

Mr. Emmert and Ms. Soule: (Deliver tributes at podium and return to
their seats)

Chair Miller: “And now, Professor Mary Lagerwey,
President of the Faculty Senate, and Professor
Paul Wilson, President, WMU Chapter of the
American Association of University
Professors.”

Professors Lagerwey and Wilson:
(Deliver tributes at podium and return to their
seats)

(Music begins following the Lagerwey/Wilson tributes)

CHORAL MUSIC
Consecrate the Place and Day
The University Chorale

Chair Miller: “Finally, last but not least, President Emeritus Diether Haenicke will speak about President Dunn.”

Pres. Emeritus Haenicke: (Delivers tribute at podium and returns to his seat)

Chair Miller: “President Dunn, please join me here at the podium.”

(President Dunn to podium)

Chair Miller: “President Dunn-----Western Michigan University has earned a distinguished place in the field of higher education. Each of your predecessors has built firmly on the work of those who have gone before. As you accept this most important position, we ask that you maintain and improve upon this tradition. We ask that you administer the duties of your office with courage and vision and that you seize each opportunity for leadership into new fields of higher education. It is our sincere desire that you will maintain an administrative environment conducive to the building of a faculty dedicated to truth and the service of mankind, a student body equally concerned

with knowledge and moral principles, and a University whose light in unfailing.

By the authority of the Board of Trustees, which I represent, I do now officially declare you president of Western Michigan University with all the duties, responsibilities and privileges appertaining thereto.”

(Chair Miller takes medallion from box on table and places on Dr. Dunn’s shoulders)

“Ladies and gentlemen, I give you the eighth president of Western Michigan University— John M. Dunn.”

(President Dunn shakes hands with platform party members.)

(Chair Miller escorts president to upper stage to taped X on floor for musical tribute and returns to his seat)

SPECIAL TRIBUTE
THE UNIVERSITY CHORALE

(Following music, President Dunn to podium)

President Dunn: REMARKS

(Following president's remarks, Chair Miller to podium)

Chair Miller:

“On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish to thank all those who planned and participated in today's program, and I thank all of you in the audience for coming. Following the ceremony, please join us for a reception in the Grand Tier lobby.

And now, please stand for our Alma Mater which will be sung by The University Chorale. Please join us when it is repeated. The words are in your program.

Following the alma mater, please be seated until the faculty, delegates, and administrators recess through the back of the auditorium.”

ALMA MATER
The University Chorale

(Administrators, delegates and faculty recess from main floor Miller. Platform Party recesses rear center stage)

RECESSIONAL
The Western Brass Ensemble