3-14-2009

GSAC Summit

John M. Dunn
Western Michigan University, john.dunn@wmich.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/dunn

Part of the Higher Education Commons

WMU ScholarWorks Citation
https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/dunn/308

This Speech is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of the President at ScholarWorks at WMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in WMU President John Dunn by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at WMU. For more information, please contact maira.bundza@wmich.edu.
• I am absolutely pleased to welcome you to Western Michigan University today. Having a roomful of engaged and committed graduate students from across the state is a clear indication to me that the universities and colleges of our state have a future that is secure.

Not only is it clear to me that we will have a strong contingent of scholars leading our institutions in the future, but I am sure your determination to make the graduate student voice heard in our state right now will have an impact on path we take forward and out of these tough economic times.

• Right now, our attention is focused on the economic challenges we face. I know it is a difficult time to be a graduate student, but I want to assure you these times will pass and you will be glad you persevered and achieved your educational goals. I know I can speak for my presidential colleagues at all of our sister institutions when I say we know this is your time.

You can't wait three or more years until times are better. Your time is now. We will do all that is in our power to smooth the way. You are certainly doing your part to help make the needs and perspectives of graduate students known. Don't let up.

• I understand that your decision to hold statewide summits like this one is a relatively new development and this is only the second time such a meeting has been held. (Sept. 2007 at EMU was first.) It's a development that will make you
stronger and better informed collectively but I suspect it already is strengthening your individual campus organizations and making graduate life at your respective universities and colleges more vibrant.  
Such meetings are an integral part of academic life. Your ability to work together across disciplines and to focus on your common needs and goals will serve you well.

- I am extraordinarily proud of Western Michigan University's Graduate Student Advisory Committee. My nearly two years at this university have been measurably enhanced by the caliber of our graduate student leaders and the interaction between our undergraduate and graduate student organizations.

A critical member of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee that brought me here was Rosanna Alsaud, who many of you might know as the previous chair of graduate student group. Her successor, Brandi Pritchett has maintained the same level of involvement with the administration while adding her own unique style to it. If you don't know her yet, please make a point of meeting her before you leave this summit.

- I wish you a productive and enjoyable summit. You are always welcome on our campus, and I hope to see you here again for meetings in your discipline or simply as visitors.

Thank you.