



Western Michigan University
ScholarWorks at WMU

WMU President John Dunn

Office of the President

3-28-2009

Dr. Timothy Greene Welcome Remarks Chavez Scholarship Banquet

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

Dunn, John M., "Dr. Timothy Greene Welcome Remarks Chavez Scholarship Banquet" (2009). *WMU President John Dunn*. 304.

<https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/dunn/304>

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 wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu.



Dr. Timothy Greene
Welcome Remarks
Chavez Scholarship Banquet
March 28, 2009

- Good evening and welcome to Western Michigan University for our celebration of the life and work of Cesar Chavez and an opportunity to raise need-based scholarship funds for students who exemplify Chavez's life accomplishments.
 - This is the third year in a row we've had the pleasure of combining forces with the Southwest Michigan Cesar E. Chavez Day Committee and area businesses to make this celebration a reality.
 - Tonight, we'll be taking the occasion to remember Cesar Chavez (note: he died in 1993) for his more than 30 years of nonviolent struggle to improve civil rights and working conditions for farm laborers and for co-founding the United Farm Workers of America--the nation's first successful farm workers union.
- He has become an icon for those who care about economic equality and ensuring fair labor conditions as well as the health and safety of those workers we rely on day in and day out to help us meet our own most basic needs.
- We'll also be helping extend his legacy by honoring those who work tirelessly in this region to bring all segments of our community together. And we'll be honoring the next generation of leaders from Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties who have earned scholarships by demonstrated their promise through academic success and civic responsibility.

- I mentioned a moment ago that this is the third time we've been part of this particular coalition and event. But, I should note that it is at least the 12th year that this University has paused to officially pay tribute to Cesar Chavez and his contributions to our state and nation. Our Division of Multicultural Affairs has made this an important event on our University calendar.

Our annual event was at least five years old when we celebrated in 2003 the state of Michigan's decision to officially make Cesar Chavez's March 31 birthday a state holiday.

- As I look back through our records of earlier observances, I noted with great interest that ten years ago--March 18, 1999-- this evening's keynote speaker, Baldemar Velasquez, was also our guest for a discussion on his memories of Cesar Chavez and an exploration of his own work in co-founding the Farm Workers of America.

Mr. Velasquez, we are delighted to have you back on campus this evening. It is our honor to have you here as part of this event, and I hope ten years from now you're here with us again to celebrate this important event.

- Again, and behalf of the entire Western Michigan University community, welcome and thank you for your investment of time and treasure in the future of our West Michigan students.