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Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering Luncheon

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• Good afternoon. And thank you for inviting me to be part of this celebration of student success. The last two months of the academic year are full of celebrations like this—all across the campus. They're an opportunity to honor you for what you've accomplished, but also for your professors and people like me to reflect on where higher education can take our students.

• Congratulations to each of you being honored this afternoon. I know the friendly but intense competition that characterizes a good engineering school. You clearly found your intellectual home and are thriving as you prepare for a great career.

• This is a research university and we are all about planning for the future, taking the resources the citizens of Michigan and the nation have given us and transforming ideas and "blue sky" thinking into action. Nowhere on this campus does this happen more often and consistently than here at the engineering college.

• When we talk about this college, we often use the phrase "Grounded in Michigan, Reaching for the Future." That's the tagline on your college Web site. It's also our wish for you as successful students.

• This college is grounded in Michigan, certainly, but the future that belongs to you is expansive—unlimited by the constraints of time and terrain. Your education here is grounded in theory, but you already know how broad the applications of that theory are. That's a special attribute of this college. We encourage you early on to begin finding the ways to apply what you are learning.
• Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering is a pairing that attracts an unusual amount of industry collaboration. You are also on the front line in combining engineering with the human element—human performance, ergonomics, engineering management, human/robot interaction, systems management, organizational communication and project budgeting.

• Wherever I travel, in Michigan or across the nation, it is always my pleasure to talk about our engineering programs and the great things happening here—the connections with industry, our senior design projects and our students' innovation.

• And you know, wherever I travel I find Broncos in leadership roles in industry and among their communities' business innovators. It doesn't surprise me. I've come to expect it. I expect to see you in one of those roles in the future.

• Congratulations, and enjoy your celebration today. You've earned it.