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Aviation Business and Industry Event

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**Aviation Business and Industry Event
"Leadership that Inspires Excellence"**

Dr. John M. Dunn

April 29, 2009

Thank you, Dave, for that great introduction. I have a couple of comments about this event I need to share with you, but before I do, I want to say how pleased I am that we have someone of Capt. Dave Powell's caliber leading our College of Aviation.

Dave's industry experience, his support for our community and his complete commitment to our students make him a triple-threat to our competitors--and an enormous asset to our leadership team.

- Welcome, Western Michigan University is honored to be a part of this special evening that brings the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo communities together through art and aviation. We're so pleased you could join us.
- We are appreciative of the work of our hosts, Battle Creek Unlimited, the Battle Creek Community Foundation and members of the West Michigan Aviation Foundation, who have made this celebration possible.
- We also appreciate the generosity of the outstanding sponsors--both individuals and organizations--who have brought the "Art of Aviation" to life. Many of them are represented here this evening.

- Cirrus Aircraft is the event sponsor for this evening.
- Rx Optical is underwriting the entire Art of Aviation initiative.
- bcVentures
- Kellogg Community Federal Credit Union
- Robert and Eleanor DeVries
- Dr. Gregory Pinnell

Thank you to all of you for your support.

- I was so pleased at the development of this initiative. I've been fortunate enough to see a core industry for another area celebrated through art (farming in Oregon?) and it was a transformative event for the communities and industry involved.

It's a wonderful blend of the best of both disciplines. That's what we are seeing with "The Art of Aviation." It allows us to provide inspiration to our area youth and make our culture richer and more reflective.

- The WMU College of Aviation is truly recognized as a program that inspires the young men and women in Michigan to be leaders in the world of aviation. We've been pleased to partner with the other exceptional organizations that had the foresight to place a spotlight on this initiative.

Tomorrow from 5-7:30 the Battle Creek Community Foundation has sponsored a student art exhibition and open house at our College of Aviation in Battle Creek.

One of our guests this evening, Rick Herter of Kalamazoo, will serve as juror for this art exhibit. We hope you can attend.

- Now, I'm proud to be able to introduce Rick Herter to you. As you may already know, Rick is an aviation/aerospace/historical artist. He is a former aircraft mechanic, a pioneer of American aviation art, a member of the World War I Aviation Historical Hall of Fame, and a former pilot.

Additionally, the mural that is serving as our backdrop tonight is a creation that landed him in the Guinness Book of World Records for the largest indoor mural. He was instrumental in the development of the "Art of Aviation" initiative from the beginning planning stages, and he is the curator of the professional exhibition.

Please help me welcome Rick Herter to the podium so he can give us overview of the professional art exhibition.