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Remarks for MOU signing with
University of Malta
President John M. Dunn
May 5, 2009

I am pleased and honored to welcome Rector Camilleri of the University of Malta to Western Michigan University to sign a Memorandum of Understanding outlining a new collaborative master's degree program in Criminology, Law and Public Policy. This is a wonderful opportunity for the students of both institutions.

- I'm happy to see this agreement come to fruition. It's been something we've talked about since late 2006, when several WMU faculty members attended a conference at the University of Malta. The idea of combining the strengths of two great universities in a collaborative degree program is, as our faculty recognized, a natural.

- The University of Malta, of course, has a rich and vibrant history. It traces its origins to a direct papal intervention in 1592. One of the oldest universities in the Mediterranean, the University of Malta is a remarkable mixture of the ancient and the modern and is influenced by many cultures and civilizations.

Today, the university has some 10,000 students, 750 of which are foreign students from nearly 80 different countries.

- And of course, Western Michigan University has a vibrant history of its own. Established in 1903, today Western Michigan University has over 25,000 students, 4,900 graduate students and 1,114 international students from 88 countries. It is one of America's fewer than 200 public research universities.

- We offer students study abroad programs in some two dozen countries, and access to foreign study opportunities in almost every country in the world through linkages with other universities and organizations.

And the faculty includes hundreds of scholars with academic or research experience outside of the United States who are engaged in collaborative activities and projects on six continents.

- This new collaboration between the University of Malta and Western Michigan University is truly interdisciplinary in nature; the program's classes will be taught at the University of Malta by WMU faculty from the

Departments of Sociology and Political Science, as well as by faculty from the University of Malta's Institute of Criminology.

- The curriculum reflects the combined strengths of American and European graduate programs. It brings together the broad-based theoretical inquiry and literary emphases common to European programs along with the training in statistical techniques, spatial analysis, and qualitative research strategies common within American programs.

The Mediterranean context for research application provides the opportunity for acquiring a degree with wide application and, at the same time, specialized knowledge of this important region in world affairs.

- Locating the graduate program at the Valletta campus of the University of Malta and vigorously recruiting students through the University of Malta's reputation in the European Union and the Mediterranean region, WMU faculty will reach a new international constituency.

- We are delighted to have a new international partner in this important program, and I look forward to many years of success for all of the students who earn their degrees through this unique new opportunity.