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Illinois Counselors Welcome

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

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• Welcome to Western Michigan University. If I look familiar to you, it may be that we've met in the past when I was provost and then interim chancellor at SIU-Carbondale.

• I know your communities and I know the caliber of students your schools produce because I spent several years in your market. My message to you today is that Western Michigan University is a wonderful match for your students.

I knew about this university's quality and some of its standout programs when I was part of the Illinois higher education environment. Still, I've been blown away by what I've found in my two years here. What I knew from afar two years ago only scratched the surface.

• One of Michigan's five public, Carnegie-designated research universities.

• By far the most affordable of the five.

• One of the oldest honors colleges in the nation and one with a entering class each year that can rival or surpass the credentials of the most elite private colleges in the nation.

• One of just 100 public universities in the nation authorized to shelter a Phi Beta Kappa chapter.
• An incredible faculty operating at the cutting edge in their disciplines and eager to work one-on-one with undergraduates. Some of our stars stay here for that precise reason.

• Internationally recognized programs that range from aviation, blindness and low vision studies, and jazz studies to geosciences, engineering management, graph theory and creative writing.

• Some of the finest instructional facilities in the nation--you'll see some of them today.

• The kind of small college city that students dream of.

• A diverse student body--ethnically diverse, internationally diverse and diverse in the range of belief systems and backgrounds they represent.

• We've been reaching out to students from your areas for generations.

We have people who came here from Chicago and never left. One of them (Johnston) sits on the WMU Board of Trustees right now. We have an enormous alumni base in Northern Illinois--older incredibly successful people and a very lively and active young alumni group.

• I'll be honest, we want more of your students and we've been reaching out to them with a designated recruiter (some of you may know her Julia Primavera) and with scholarship support. It's working. We are becoming one of the more popular out-of-state choices.
For several areas in Illinois, WMU is as close as many Illinois universities. From Chicago, for instance, we're just two hours away by car and a short Amtrak journey.

• I know you'll like what you see today, and I'm counting on you to share your impressions with your college-bound students.

• Thank you for coming. Don't hesitate to pose your questions now or by e-mail--john.dunn@wmich.edu. I promise you'll get a prompt answer.