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John M. Dunn

Western Michigan University, john.dunn@wmich.edu

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Intro of Rep. Hoekstra to Area Superintendents
Dr. John M. Dunn
Aug. 19, 2009

- Good afternoon. I'm glad so many of you could be here today. You represent the most critical part of the Michigan infrastructure that will help us build a better and more prosperous future--our schools. And I am proud to represent a university that is your constant partner in providing the research, educational resources and community commitment that is all part of the process of building that successful future.
- Our guest today is Rep. Pete Hoekstra, who is in his 9th term as a congressman representing this state and, specifically Michigan's 2nd congressional district, in Washington. Earlier this year, Rep. Hoekstra announced he will not seek reelection to congress, but will seek the Republican nomination for the 2010 Michigan governor's race.
- You've heard Rep. Hoekstra's name often over the years on the most important topics of our times--education, labor, the budget, and the nation's intelligence operations. Those are the areas in which he has risen to both majority and minority committee leadership positions. He is currently a senior member of the House Committee on Education and Labor and is the top Republican on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.
- Rep. Hoekstra has brought to his congressional service and those important topics the perspective of a Fortune 500 business executive. Before running for office, he worked for 15 years at Herman Miller Inc. in Zeeland, Mich., where he served as Vice President of Marketing.

- A native of the Netherlands, he immigrated to Michigan with his family when he was 3 years old. He is a graduate of Holland Christian Schools, holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Hope College in Holland and holds an MBA from the (University of Michigan) one of Michigan's OTHER research universities--the one located in Ann Arbor.

- Rep. Hoekstra is busy these days extending his knowledge of his district to the encompass all of Michigan. To that end, he has vowed to work 100 jobs and bike 1,000 miles so that he can connect with the everyday lives of Michigan voters. Lately, that's meant he's laid pipes under city streets in Detroit, picked asparagus and made Mackinac fudge. I understand he's also recently fielded a request to change tires at a shop in Fremont.

- He's also been chipping away at that goal of covering 1,000 miles on a bicycle. As a runner, I know how valuable it is to get out of the car and onto the street to really get a feel for what is happening in our neighborhoods and our cities.

- Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming Rep. Pete Hoekstra as our speaker this afternoon. Rep. Hoekstra.