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WMU President John Dunn

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## College of Education Scholarship Awards Ceremony

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## College of Education Scholarship Awards Ceremony John M. Dunn Sept. 18, 2009

- Good afternoon and congratulations! I'm pleased to be here. As a matter of fact, I'm always pleased to be part of a celebration of student success--and that is exactly what this is.
- This is also a celebration that notes the commitment of our donors to providing scholarship support that allows good students to become great teachers. The scholarship assistance provided will contribute to the success of the students with us today. In a very real way, it also will contribute to the success of thousands of K-12 students who will encounter these young teachers and education professionals in the classrooms of the future.
- Western Michigan University was launched 106 years ago as a teachers college. Since then, we've grown into a major U.S. research university. But we have never lost sight of our original mission and what we do so well--preparing the very best young teachers to fill the classrooms of Michigan and the rest of the nation.
- We spend a lot of time talking about student success here at Western Michigan University. Student success is what WMU is all about, and student success is the core mission of teachers who prepare for their careers at Western. We want you students to spend your years at Western Michigan University knowing what it's like to be encouraged and supported at every turn. And we want you to take that spirit into your classrooms and professional roles after you graduate. You will

know what it's like to have a team of people focused on your success and you'll know how to provide that same support for your students.

• As a lifelong educator, I know a little of what the future holds for these young people. But my own career path tells me I can't possibly predict all the wonderful possibilities that lie ahead.

To our students, I say, "Make the most of the opportunities these scholarships offer." To our donors, I say, simply. "Thank you."

• Have a wonderful year, enjoy yourselves as students and get ready for the ride of your life.

Thank you.