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Donuts with Dr. Dunn

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Donuts With Dr. Dunn/Lee Honors College
John M. Dunn
Oct. 5, 2009

- Good evening. Thank you for inviting me here to talk with you. I have to say I wholeheartedly approve of the format. As far as I'm concerned, donuts, coffee and conversation are a winning combination at any time on any day.
- I'm going to talk a little bit about how I came to be here as the president of this great university, but I want to leave lots of time for the question-and-answer period. You may have some very particular items you want to know about. I don't want to spend a lot of time talking in generalities, if we can focus on the specific topics that are really important to you.
- It is a particular pleasure to be here at the Lee Honors College to talk. You need to be aware of just how special this college is and how highly regarded it is in the nation. The Lee Honors College is, in fact, one of the oldest collegiate honors programs in the nation, an
- The college is designed to deepen and enrich the experiences you'll have at Western Michigan University. It's all about finding ways to meet your needs and making the most of your undergraduate years here. We want to ensure your success as a student today and as an alumnus of the University in the future.
- Being an alumnus of WMU may sound like something that will happen far in the future, but it will happen sooner than you can imagine. I've been asked to talk about the success I've had in my career. I've been very fortunate to have help at every step along the way, and that's what I want you to know about your university--there are people all over this campus poised to help whenever you need to reach out and ask a question or request assistance.

- It sometimes seems like just yesterday that I was an undergraduate at another university. I was an undergraduate whose world was transformed by what I found at a large state university much like this one.

- Briefly recount journey from early NIU days until now.

- I began learning at NIU to have respect for the incredible range of cultures, beliefs and background represented by the people who came from all over the world to study there. That's a lesson that has stuck by me and defined my career.
 - Respect for those with special needs who became the focus of my early professional career;
 - Respect for politically disparate voices in the community as someone who has held elected office; and
 - Respect for differing points of view from all who were my colleagues at the higher education institutions at which I've served.

- That basic respect for other people and a commitment to civil discourse are lessons I hope you take with you into the future. Make sure you reach out beyond your current circle of friends and really get to know the people here who represent different cultures, countries and points of view.

- This University is focused on your success, and you will find even greater opportunity to expand your horizons than I experienced. We are continually forging new alliances and partnerships that will bring new opportunities for you to explore. New Confucius Institute as an example--opportunities that can be found only a few universities in the nation.

Now, let's hear what you are wondering about. All questions are fair game. Bring them on.