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Ken Miller Introduction Haworth Distinguished Speaker Series

John M. Dunn

Western Michigan University, john.dunn@wmich.edu

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Good evening. Let me add my welcome to all of you here for this event. We are enormously proud of the Haworth College of Business and its Distinguished Speaker Series. The series is an opportunity for community business leaders as well as our faculty, staff and students to gather and listen to the expertise and unique perspectives of some remarkable community and industry leaders.

This evening's speaker is a great example, and I was delighted to be asked to introduce him. Ken Miller is one of the first people connected with Western Michigan University I got to know. He led the Presidential Search Advisory Committee that brought me to this community two and a half years ago. (Story about his cell call to you in church?) So my very first impression of him was that he was an individual of uncommon wisdom. Our friendship and professional relationship since then has, of course, confirmed that first impression.

What I have come to know is that he is a person who cares deeply about his university and the people who are part of it, about his community and the people who reside here and, most important, about the future and what we can do together to build it. He embraces all three in his everyday life. I count it among my great fortunes that I have come to know Ken Miller and
that I have been privileged to lead this University while he served as chair of our governing board.

Ken Miller is a two-time WMU alumnus who went on to earn a law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. He also a principal in Havirco, a Kalamazoo investment management firm, which he has co-owned since 1983. And he is majority owner of the Millennium Restaurant Group, which owns and operates several southwest Michigan restaurants, including the Union Cabaret and Grille, a WMU-theme restaurant on the Kalamazoo downtown mall.

Since 2002, he has been a member of the Western Michigan University Board of Trustees, and he is currently serving his second consecutive term as chair of the board. Next week, he will receive a 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award from the WMU Alumni Association.

Ken has a more recent role that brings him here to talk with us this evening. He is a member of Suite Idea Inc., a group working on a plan to build a 6,800-seat event center in downtown Kalamazoo.

Ladies and gentlemen please welcome attorney, restaurateur, economic developer, supporter of the arts and one heck of a "Dancing with the Kalamazoo Stars" competitor, Kenneth V. Miller.