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Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner

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Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner
John M. Dunn
Friday, Oct. 23, 2009

Good evening.

Let me begin by extending **my personal congratulations** to all the alumni being recognized this weekend, and let me add **my personal thanks** on behalf of a grateful university for the honor they have brought to WMU.

The measure of any college or university is what it contributes to society. Our university contributes directly through our research, through the arts and through community service, among other ways.

While those contributions are important and significant, they pale in comparison to the collective contributions of our alumni, a representative few of whom we honor this weekend.

Western Michigan is highly regarded for many reasons—most notably the quality and character of our alumni.

For every person we honor this weekend and for all the alumni we've honored over the years, there's another dozen, two dozen, two **hundred** out there **right now** making an enormous difference in their communities. And every one of them makes us all proud to be Broncos.

We have students enrolled and others who are planning to attend because the teacher in their high school or middle school who was **most significant in their education** is one of our graduates.

Think about that—the most significant teacher in a young person's life. How's that for a contribution to society.

Those kinds of remarkable stories about our graduates are found in every profession—which is why I extend my thanks **to all of you** on behalf of a grateful university.

I am very pleased you could be with us this weekend.

I hope you're planning on joining us for other events.

And don't be a stranger—you are always welcome.