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Make-a-Difference Awards Ceremony

John M. Dunn
Western Michigan University, john.dunn@wmich.edu

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• Good afternoon and thank you all for being here to celebrate the extraordinary service of the staff members we're honoring today. We see their work as extraordinary, but I know from experience that these employees usually don't see what they do as extraordinary. They see what they do as a labor of love.

• These are people who have built their careers at Western Michigan University. Every day, those around them see them reach out to our students and their colleagues in a way that is driven not by their job descriptions, but by their genuine commitment to and concern for those who are part of our community. They have invested themselves in Western Michigan University and committed themselves to making our students successful.

• I have the privilege of seeing this kind of service in people across the University. Often, someone will point out an employee who falls into this category--just because they think I should know. You know, I think that nomination process is the supreme compliment to outstanding employees. Your peers have really said you set the bar high and they recognize that yours is a work ethic they would like to emulate.

• What has been surprising to me and deeply gratifying since becoming president is learning about the number of people at our University who fall into this category. One of the things that has impressed me most is the level of the service they provide every day. Today we honor nine people who come from every area at the University. These are people who truly make this a special place while they work on investments, lead our FYE programs, support our academic departments and colleges and keep this campus beautiful and running smoothly.
• Thank you to each of you for what you do each day for our University. Thank you for making our students safe, healthy and ready to succeed. And thank you for giving all of us role models to emulate as we continue about the important work we do.

• You make us proud, and you continually reinforce our view of this as a wonderful place to work.