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4-23-2010

Aviation Anniversary Celebration Dinner

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Dunn, John M., "Aviation Anniversary Celebration Dinner" (2010). *WMU President John Dunn*. 186.

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Aviation Anniversary Celebration Dinner
Dr. John M. Dunn
April 23, 2010

(Dave Powell will introduce you)

- Good evening and welcome to our celebration of 70 years of aviation education--10 years as a college--at Western Michigan University.
- This room is full of special guests--Congressman Mark Schauer, State Rep, Robert Jones, Rep. Larry Deshazor, Trustees (Tolbert, Asmonga-Knapp and Hettinger), a former trustee, a future trustee and honorees. Some of you--and you know who you are--can claim more than one of those titles. We have our speakers Dale Klapmeier of Cirrus and Steve Buss of the EAA; special industry friends of the college, alumni, community members, faculty and colleagues.
- And we have the most important ingredient to WMU's successful aviation education efforts--our students. More than 100 of our aviation flight, maintenance and management students are here today to help us celebrate this remarkable program. You are what this is all about.
- What a beautiful and appropriate venue we're in to celebrate this event. This building is vintage Battle Creek--it began life as John Harvey Kellogg's famed Sanitarium. During World War II it was put in service to our nation as Percy Jones Hospital, and today it continues to be a vital center for federal operation as the Hart-Dole-Inouye Federal Center.
- Like our College of Aviation, this facility is the perfect blend of community commitment, service and forward thinking. Our college is here in Battle Creek in its beautiful facilities at W.K. Kellogg Airport because of the commitment of forward

thinking people both here and in Kalamazoo, and the generosity of members of this community and support from the federal government. Like I said--a perfect blend.

- Aviation and Western Michigan University really began in the same year--1903. It was only 36 years later--in 1939-- that aviation formally became a part of our University. Today it not just one of the best, but THE best collegiate program in the nation. Our reputation is built on what our students do when they enter the industry.

- I was not even formally installed as president of this University when I got my first lesson in how fiercely proud our aviation community is. (*Tell abbreviated version of your meeting at Subway of the young flier*).

- It is an awesome school. You all know that, and it is my pleasure to help you celebrate that fact this evening.

- And now, please welcome Congressman Schauer who will make a presentation. (*Dave Powell and you will step back up to the podium to receive the certificate*)

- Now, I'd like to invite Rep. Robert Jones of Kalamazoo to the podium. (*Dave Powell and you will step back up to the podium to receive the certificate*)

(Then Dave takes over to introduce the speakers)