Medallion Brunch for Graduating Seniors Brunch

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• Good morning. It's the Sunday before finals week and if this were any other group of students, I'd wonder what on earth you were doing here instead of studying at the library.

• You are, however, a very special group of students. You came here with outstanding academic credentials, and you will graduate Saturday, with a degree from a great University that will be watching you as you make important contributions to our state and nation.

• You're surrounded here today by a support network that includes the family members who have been behind you all your lives and some generous donors who joined that support network when you made the decision to come to Western Michigan University as a Medallion Scholar.

• When you came here as freshmen, you were welcomed to campus during a special Medallion reception at which we helped you connect with the person or persons who helped make your scholarship possible. Today is the bookend--a chance to reflect on what you've accomplished feel pride in your achievements--and a chance for all of us to thank those members of your support network who helped you succeed.

• Congratulations. Students, enjoy your final week as an undergraduate. And for everyone here to today, I invite you to absolutely revel in the moments that will come on Saturday, when these Medallion Scholars walk across the Miller Auditorium stage to receive diplomas. It's time for a well-deserved celebration of academic achievement, donor generosity and the lifelong impact of family, friends and mentors.
• My wish for you, students, is that you and your families always look back on these past few years with good feelings and fond memories. For our donors, this is a time for me to personally offer you the gratitude of this University and invite you to look forward to watching the future accomplishments that you have made possible.

• Thank you.