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6-1-2010

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Dunn, John M., "Sangren Hall Groudbreaking" (2010). *WMU President John Dunn*. 172.

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Sangren Groundbreaking
John M. Dunn
June 1, 2010

(You'll be introduced by Gary Wegenke)

- Good morning. I'm delighted to see so many people from across campus here to celebrate the start--at last--of work on the all-new Sangren Hall. It will be the new home to our College of Education and Human Development, and it will be the site of classes for students in literally every discipline across the University.
- For 46 years, Sangren Hall has been the center of academics on this campus. In 2012, when classes begin in the new Sangren Hall, it will bear the Sangren name and will honor the second president of this University--an education professor whose greatest contribution to WMU was to lead the successful effort to stave off political attempts to close the University during the Depression.
- When this project is completed, we will have finished updating all of the academic buildings that were part of a great facilities expansion period in the 1960s--Wood Hall ('62), Sangren Hall ('64) Kohrman Hall ('66) and Brown Hall ('67).
- And as with the other building projects, we will incorporate the most energy-efficient design elements. In Sangren Hall, we are aiming for LEED-Gold. We know that our ability to both serve our students and be good stewards of the public resources entrusted to us requires that we make every effort to build and run our buildings in the most sustainable way possible.
- And finally, let me say how pleased we are to have the State of Michigan as our partner in our work to provide the best possible learning environment for our students--for the future teachers of this state and for the future leaders in a variety of

disciplines. The Michigan Legislature approved capital outlay funds to get this building project started. We are hopeful that our partnership with the state on this project will expand in the coming months.

- I'd like to note how excited I am on a personal level to be part of my first WMU groundbreaking. That level of excitement is compounded by the fact that we'll be breaking ground this afternoon on another wonderful project for our students.

And now, the moment is at hand to don hard hats and turn the first shovel of dirt in a building project that will transform the center of the WMU campus.

- Trustee Tolbert, Dean Wegenke, Joelle, please take a shovel and join me in this memorable moment.

(After the shovel gig, Gary Wegenke will close by thanking everyone for coming and inviting them to the afternoon groundbreaking.)