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Annual State Conference Michigan ACE Network for Women Leaders in Higher Education

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Good Morning! On behalf of Western Michigan University, this year’s conference host institution, I would like to welcome you to the Michigan A.C.E. Network for Women Leaders annual summer conference. Through my own affiliation with the national American Council on Education, I am familiar with the history of the Michigan A.C.E. Network, which is one of the most active state networks in the nation.

WMU believes in the mission of the Michigan A.C.E. Network, which is committed to strengthening and expanding opportunities in higher education for women in Michigan. In fact, we live that every day, and I am very proud that women from every level of WMU have been able to contribute their talents to the development of this 2010 conference. I want to offer thanks to the conference planning team lead by the conference chair, Andrea Beach, our Director of Faculty Development. The team also included executive
administrators, faculty, administrative and clerical professionals, graduate
and undergraduate students. A special thanks to our Extended University
Programs and their Office of Life-Long Education, whose excellent work
was instrumental in planning and carry out all the details of this conference.

WMU is triply blessed on this day – to be hosting this important conference,
to be celebrating our 2010-11 A.C.E. Fellow, Dr. Susan Stapleton, Associate
Dean of Arts and Sciences, and to be honoring Dr. Martha Warfield as a
Michigan A.C.E. Network Distinguished Woman awardee. Dr. Warfield’s
tireless work certainly exemplifies the conference theme of “lifting as we
climb” to create a better future.

I’m sure you are in for a memorable day!

The theme of the conference, “Creating a Better Future: Lifting as we
Climb,” stresses how important and essential it is to mentor promising
women in the academy. Every talent, from every quarter of our profession
must focus now, as never before, on the opportunities we have ahead. We
all know there are challenges; I can think of no better group to suggest
innovative responses than the A.C.E. Network.

Many of your sessions and activities will focus on the national A.C.E. values
that have been developed by the national Office for Women in Higher
Education--- an important arm of the American Council on Education. They
include identifying, developing, advancing, and supporting women in higher
education throughout our state. In other words: nurturing ideas!
Please accept the best wishes from all of us at Western Michigan University for an inspiring and satisfying conference. May this be a day that will launch many new ideas, new relationships, and new solutions. And may it contribute, perhaps in unexpected ways, to your own professional success.

My personal best wishes to each of you. Welcome to the Conference!