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Orientation Welcome – Final Session

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Orientation Welcome – Final Session
Dr. John M. Dunn
August 31, 2010

- Hello. I'm John M. Dunn, and I'm the president of Western Michigan University. Your decision to enroll at WMU in fall semester might have come late in the summer, but it is likely to be a move that you will come to treasure. I predict that you'll love it here and find the best academic journey of your lives.

It's my pleasure to welcome you--the Class of 2014--as new members of the Bronco family. We're glad you're here.

- Your orientation is a time to become more familiar with the campus and get comfortable before you are introduced to both the rigors and the fun of academic life. We encourage you to get it right, right from the start. We want you to take advantage of everything we offer here so you can realize the full WMU experience.

- Your studies come first, of course, but being a successful person means being able to balance work and fun. It means trying new things, meeting new people and learning outside the classroom. Don't miss a chance to do any of that--and start while you're here at orientation.

- Today, you'll hear a lot about our Western Edge. It's a program that will support you and help you earn your degree in the shortest time possible. But the Western Edge is also the advantage you'll have in the future because you have a degree from Western Michigan University.

- People all over the world know the quality of our programs. If there were a "Final Four" in academics, we'd be there every year in fields as diverse as aviation, jazz

studies, math education, blind rehabilitation and engineering management. That means you'll be studying with professors who literally wrote the book in those disciplines.

- You made a wonderful decision when you chose Western Michigan University. We expect great things from you while you're a student, and we know you'll accomplish great things when you're a proud Bronco alum. Believe me, that will happen sooner than you might think possible.
- Last spring, I stood on the stage at Miller Auditorium to award diplomas to more than 2,600 graduating students. A few years ago, they were sitting where you're sitting now. They found success here, earned degrees and now they've begun careers or are headed off to graduate school.
- Those new Bronco alumni left here with the kind of memories that you are just beginning to make. And they left WMU with a great sense of Bronco pride--the kind of pride that makes them brag about being a WMU alum wherever they are. I run into them all over the world, and I consider those young alumni among our brightest points of pride.
- In a few years, I'll be talking about your exploits as a student or your accomplishments as an alum. I know you'll be successful here on campus and in your professional life.
- I'm looking forward to getting to know as many of you as possible. When you see me on campus, don't be shy about introducing yourself and talking. "We call ourselves a "heads up" campus because we walk with pride, keep our heads up and greet each other as we pass.

- Just tap me on the shoulder as we're standing in line at Bigbees and tell me who you are and how your student experience is going. Or send me an e-mail at john.dunn@wmich.edu or visit me on Facebook.

- In due course, I'll be standing on the Miller Auditorium stage to shake your hand and present your diploma. It will be a moment in which we both will feel a great sense of accomplishment--Your success is what we're all about.

Welcome to WMU. We are glad you are here. Enjoy your orientation activities, and get ready for the ride of a lifetime.

Go Broncos!