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## Staff Make-a-Difference Awards

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Make a Difference Awards Welcome  
John M. Dunn  
April 19, 2010

- Good afternoon and thank you all for being here to celebrate the extraordinary service of the staff members we're honoring today. We see their work as extraordinary, but I know from experience that these employees usually don't see what they do as extraordinary. They see what they do as a labor of love.
- These are people who have built their careers at Western Michigan University. Every day, those around them see them reach out to our students and their colleagues in a way that is driven not by their job descriptions, but by their genuine commitment to and concern for those who are part of our community. They have invested themselves in Western Michigan University and committed themselves to making our students successful.
- I have the privilege of seeing this kind of service in people across all areas of the University. Often, someone will point out an employee who falls into this category-- just because they think I should know. You know, I think that nomination process is the supreme compliment to outstanding employees. Your peers have really said you set the bar high and they recognize that yours is a work ethic they would like to emulate.
- What has been deeply gratifying to me since becoming president is getting to know the people at our University who fall into the Make-a-Difference category. I've had the opportunity to see them in action. The exemplary service they provide every day to our students, our community and to each other is truly impressive. Today we honor 12 individuals who come from every area at the University. These are people who truly make this a special place as they advise and support our academic

departments; as they welcome, feed and house our terrific students; and as they keep this campus beautiful and running smoothly.

- Thank you to each of you for what you do each day for our University. Thank you for making our students safe, healthy and ready to succeed. And thank you for giving all of us role models to emulate as we continue about the important work we do.
- You make us proud, and you continually reinforce our view of this as a wonderful place to work.