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LSAMP Funding Renewal Event

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Good morning. It is my delight to be here today. This is a twofold celebration. It is an announcement of new funding to expand a successful initiative aimed at improving the number of talented young people who find their calling in science, technology, engineering or mathematics.

Equally important, or perhaps even more important, is the fact that today is also a celebration of the success we’ve seen over the first five years of a four-university partnership that launched this effort in 2005 with high hopes and deep commitment. That success is exemplified by the young people here with us today who have come to our universities through the Michigan Lewis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP).

We have a number of young scientists here today who are showing the incredible range of discovery in which they are engaged. They're here showing their work in poster presentations and headed to wonderful careers in STEM fields. I know about two of them because they are WMU students.

- **Adeel Khan**, a junior in chemical engineering, is conducting Neural Cell Investigations in Relation to Spinal Cord Injuries

- **Natasha Wadhwa**, a junior majoring in biomedical sciences, is out to create a molecularly woven material that is lightweight but also among the toughest materials ever made.

Students like Adeel and Natasha had the opportunity to be involved in summer programs between high school and college and during their undergraduate careers...
that helped develop their talents and interests. Today we're pleased to announce that new funding will allow us to extend opportunities like that to students who take a different route and begin their college careers in community colleges. I'm so pleased that we'll be able to go in this direction. It dovetails perfectly with WMU's commitments and engagement with our community college partners. And it allows us to honor and respect the path our student families choose.

• Because this has been the kind of week it has been, allow me to use a snow metaphor. We're out to create an avalanche of young scientists who are equipped to both change the landscape and sweep barriers away as they gain momentum. I could not be more pleased to have my university play a part in this effort.