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Community Reception for Founding Dean Hal Jenson
Welcome by John M. Dunn
Feb. 24, 2011

- Welcome friends, colleagues, members of the medical community and guests. Thank you for being with us this afternoon to celebrate a signature milestone in the development of a School of Medicine that we believe will have a transformational affect on this community, this region and the way we look at medical education.

For three years now, as a community, we've been examining this possibility, doing our due diligence, gathering support and insights from our partners at Borgess and Bronson, and seeking additional input from the medical establishment across West Michigan. Last month we reached another milestone in the process when, after a national search, we announced the appointment of Dr. Hal Jenson as the founding dean of our medical school.

We are so pleased to have him here and to have him help us as we begin to hit the next milestones in this process at a faster and faster pace. We will continue to be thoughtful and careful about the process--we intend to do this well and become a national model. But the simple fact is we have momentum with us and a critical mass has formed around this initiative and we are moving forward.

It's my pleasure this afternoon to introduce Dr. Jenson to you. We announced his appointment Jan. 25, and he is here with us this week to begin the process of becoming part of this community.

Dr. Jenson is coming to Kalamazoo from Tufts University, where he served as professor of pediatrics and regional dean for the Western Campus of the Tufts School of Medicine. He is expected to begin his duties at WMU this spring.

He is an alumnus of Brigham Young University who earned a medical degree from George Washington University and later earned a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Texas at Austin. He completed a residency in pediatrics at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital at Case Western Reserve University and a fellowship in pediatric infectious diseases at Yale University School of Medicine. A specialist in clinical infectious diseases and virology, he was also a visiting fellow in molecular biology at Cambridge's Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research.

(Note Jenson family if there. He's here today with his wife... and daughter... and we welcome them to our community as well.)

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming to Kalamazoo and this community's School of Medicine, Dr. Hal Jenson, our founding dean.