3-21-2011

Ribbon-Cutting for Campus Charging Stations

John M. Dunn
Western Michigan University, john.dunn@wmich.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/dunn

Part of the Higher Education Commons

WMU ScholarWorks Citation
https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/dunn/105

This Speech is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of the President at ScholarWorks at WMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in WMU President John Dunn by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at WMU. For more information, please contact maira.bundza@wmich.edu.
Ribbon-cutting for Campus Charging Stations  
Remarks by John M. Dunn  
March 21, 2011

(Pete Strazdas welcomes those in attendance, and cues the arrival of the Chevy Volt.  
Stabenow and Dunn arrive by Chevy Volt and are introduced by Strazdas, who also indicates  
President Dunn will say a few words)

• Good morning. It's my pleasure to welcome Sen. Stabenow here to help us introduce our EV charging station initiative. We are now the first university in Michigan to offer a charging station on our campus--four stations, actually--that are open to the public and part of a statewide network designed to serve a growing population of electric vehicle owners. (NOTE: There's one at the GVSU remote Muskegon site and one at Schoolcraft Community College.)

• I could not think of a better place or better company in which to celebrate these wonderful new resources. Sen. Stabenow was a supporter of the ARRA funding that made this development possible and she's been an true advocate for green technology. Our grant to acquire these stations came to us from ARRA funding through Coulomb (Cool-um) Technologies.

• And this location--here at our College of Engineering and applied Science is a center for research that focuses on the battery technology that makes the electric vehicle possible. Our Center for Hybrid Electric Applied Research--the CHEAR Lab--is a partnership between WMU and Eaton Corp. The $1 million lab was opened last fall, and we expect hybrid-electric vehicle drive and battery technology to take a significant leap forward as a result of the work being done
here. I believe we have some faculty and students here who are part of that work.

• With this development, we are not only continuing the sustainability goals we've set for ourselves here at Western Michigan University but this also helps us extend our community's ability to meet its goals.

• We've positioned these four charging stations next to public transportation bus stops to support an integrated sustainable community transportation approach. There's this one here at the BTR, one in the middle of the campus in front of the Administration building, and two on Stadium Drive by the Physical Plant building.

• While we're taking electricity from the power grid to run these charging stations we're also feeding power back into the grid with our wind turbine, which is just west of this building and with our solar array on the rooftop of Wood Hall on the main campus.

• Kalamazoo is now leading the way in this technology in West Michigan. In addition to these four charging stations in Kalamazoo, there is one in Grand Rapids, two in Holland, and one in Muskegon. Across the state, Michigan now has more public and networked charging stations than any state in the Midwest.

• We have two WMU professors--Drs. John Patten and Paul Ponchillia--who drive electric vehicles. Dr. Patten now parks his electric car in this spot and Dr.
Ponchillia parks his on the main campus. *(Paul is teaching a class at this time and John is on vacation - they will not be in attendance).*

- And fittingly, the first Chevy Volt sold in Southwest Michigan is here to help us launch this initiative. WMU alumnus Todd Bannon was kind enough to let Sen. Stabenow and me arrive in EV style with his car. He clearly is a great example of the forward-thinking alumni we produce. Thank you, Todd. And just as interesting is that fact that the car was sold to Todd by another alum-- Jason Sellers of DeNooyer Chevrolet.

It's my pleasure now to ask Sen. Stabenow to give us her perspective on how important this new technology is to our state and nation's future.

Please join me in welcoming Michigan Sen. Debbie Stabenow.

(About four minutes)