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Script for Videotaped Orientation Welcome

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• Hello. I'm John Dunn, president of Western Michigan University. It is my pleasure to welcome you--students and families--to the Bronco community.

• I wish it were possible for me to be on campus today to welcome you personally. But I have great confidence in our orientation team, and I know all of your questions will be answered and you'll get a complete picture of the outstanding people, programs and resources in place to ensure your success.

• Students, today is your first official day as a Bronco. You'll register for your first semester classes, and when you leave, you'll be an enrolled student--ready to hit the ground running when you return in the fall.

• You've made a terrific choice by selecting WMU. You'll be a student at a major public research university--one of just 139 in the U.S. according to the Carnegie Foundation. You'll also be part of a university that is large enough to provide the resources you need and small enough to make you feel at home and part of a community that really cares about you and your success.

• I suspect you already know how special many of our programs are. For those of you who are sports fans, I like to point out that if there were a "Final Four" in degree programs like aviation, creative writing, engineering management, speech pathology, jazz studies or accounting, we'd be there every year. I've named just a few of our 230 programs. There are many more with the same kind of national and international reputation.
• But we're not done. We never stop looking at ways we can grow and add to our university's reputation and our ability to serve you. New programs and initiatives are always being reviewed because we know that every time we enhance what we do as a university, it makes the degree you earn here even more valuable. You're coming to WMU at a particularly exciting time. By the time you graduate, we will have opened our new medical school on campus--and that school will enhance this university's overall programming and stature.

• While I've missed meeting you today, I look forward to seeing you this fall. Be sure to introduce yourself or simply take a moment to say "hello" when we pass each other on campus. We pride ourselves on being a "heads up" campus and always taking time to greet and acknowledge each other. I'll be looking for you this fall. We're all very proud that you have chosen to be a Bronco.

• If I can help you or your family in any way, please send me an email message. My address is simple--john.dunn@wmich.edu--and I read and respond personally to my email messages.

• Welcome to Western Michigan University and Grab the reins.