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## WMU Family Education Fair

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WMU Family Education Fair  
Dr. John M. Dunn  
8/23/11

- Good afternoon. I'm delighted to see you all here, and I hope you're having some fun digging into the learning opportunities that are yours simply because you are a member of the Western Michigan University campus community.
- I see WMU families here, and that's always wonderful to see those of you who know us best and know the quality of what happens here, are ready to entrust your children's education and their future to us. Just as rewarding for me, though, is seeing all of you--faculty and staff members--who are here to investigate the idea of taking a class yourself.
- I hope you're doing so because you share Gandhi's famous prescription for a full life. *"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."*
- Today's event is about taking stock of those learning options that can help each of us grow personally and professionally. It's about learning to become better at what we do, but it's also about learning for the pure joy of exploring new information or mastering something new. It's about what brought us to higher education in the first place.
- Higher education is a terrific environment in which to work. We are sometimes captive to the economic cycles that so dramatically affect our state. But always--good years and lean--we can offer a benefit of enormous value. We can offer you the opportunity to learn, to pursue your interests, to enhance your credentials and expand your awareness.

- I've always viewed tuition remission as a sign of our University's commitment to higher education. It's a given that we would encourage our faculty and staff to enhance their lives through education. It's such a fact of life, I think we sometime take it for granted or simply forget this valuable option is available to us. Today, we are reinvigorating our commitment and reminding our campus community of this world of possibilities.

- I've been thinking about this a lot over the past few months--so much so that I may decide to take a class myself. "The History of Sport in American Culture," sounds appealing and is perfect for one of my personal and professional interests. "The Principles of Public Budgeting" might be helpful in letting me know the latest tools for stretching too few dollars over too many needs. And please don't tell me there are horrified faculty members sneaking out the ballroom doors, alarmed at the prospect of seeing me take that last available seat in their class.

- You're going to hear the word "learning" throughout this fall and beyond. We're a "learner-centered" campus community. Learning is the focus of what we do. Our students are learners, of course, but we're all lifelong learners as well. Thank you for being a participant today in this celebration of learning.

Now, I'm going to turn the program over to the people who will talk about the nuts and bolts of helping you "*Learn as if you were to live forever.*"