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FedEx Express, OBAP 727 Gift Remarks

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FedEx Express, OBAP 727 Gift Remarks
Dr. John M. Dunn
8/23/11

- Good morning. Welcome to Western Michigan University. It's my pleasure to welcome

- Capt. (Albert) Glenn of both OBAP and FedEx Express and
- David Sutton and John Gorman of FedEx Express

And my first message to them is a simple "Thank you." Thank you for this incredible gift.

- This is a wonderful gift and the mark of a collaboration that truly is aimed at enhancing the education and credentials of future aviation professionals. We're delighted to be part of a new partnership with FedEx and to continue our longtime relationship with the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals.

- Our students will benefit from having this 727 as an educational resource, and the airline industry will reap the benefits of the lessons our students learn here.

- This aircraft, however, will pay dividends in an even more important way. We have a longstanding tradition and focus here at the WMU College of Aviation. We've known for years that the next generation of aerospace professionals needs to be more diverse. We need to be all about bringing a more diverse population to the business of aviation. We need more representation from every one of our minority population--black, Latino, Native American, Asian American and others. And we need more women in the cockpit in the future.

- Too many children in those groups are not among the flying public. They might never have been inside a passenger aircraft. If they have flown, they surely didn't get the opportunity to look deeply and satisfy their curiosity. They may never have considered the idea of a career in aviation.
- This wonderful aircraft gift will help us change that. Just imagine how transformational an experience it may be for a youngster to tour a plane like this, get a look at the cockpit, take a peek in the cargo area and just see how it works powerful outreach tool when we bring youngsters to campus for visits and camps.
- So we see this has a gift that will have multiple uses. Our current aviation students will certainly benefit from having a chance to closely examine this aircraft and try their hand at maneuvering it along the runway. Just as important is the potential for giving the next generation of aviation students a chance to look at the potential and the reality of building a career in this great industry.

Thank you on behalf of our students today and tomorrow.