



Western Michigan University
ScholarWorks at WMU

WMU President John Dunn

Office of the President

6-16-2011

Chicago Board of Trade Group

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

Dunn, John M., "Chicago Board of Trade Group" (2011). *WMU President John Dunn*. 512.

<https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/dunn/512>

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 wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu.



Chicago Board of Trade Group
Dr. John M. Dunn
6/16/11

(Opening slide)

- Good afternoon. On behalf of the entire Western Michigan University community, I want to welcome you to our community. We are delighted that you are here to learn about our city and region. I think you'll discover that it is a place that both welcomes and celebrates citizens from around the world--whether they're visiting or living and working here.

- As you're traveling around town today, I hope you have a chance to see our beautiful campus. My job right now is to give you a sense of Western Michigan University's global connections and to let you know about the resources that we offer to citizens of your nation. I'll be using some slides to simply show some of the wonderful faces that make up our student body.

(Slide #2)

- Let me start by giving you some basic facts about WMU and showing you what our campus looks like.

- More than 25,000 students

- 20,000 undergrads

- 5,000 graduate students

- One of just 139 public research universities in the U.S. as determined by the Carnegie Foundation

- More than 230 graduate and undergraduate programs

- International reputation in disciplines ranging from Accounting, Evaluation and Medieval Studies to Physics, the Fine Arts, and Aviation.

(Slide #3)

- Our main campus is in Kalamazoo, but we also have an aviation campus in Battle Creek, Mich., and we offer course work online and at seven regional sites around Michigan. Our main campus features

- 600+ acres

- Close to downtown Kalamazoo

- On-campus housing that includes residence halls and student apartments

- Free bus transportation on campus and throughout the community

(Slide #4)

- An engineering campus surrounded by innovative private companies

(Slide #5)

- Business facilities designed to look and function like a modern corporate headquarters

(Slide #6)

- A state-of-the-art Health and Human Services campus

- We have a longstanding international tradition that has been strengthened over the past 30 years. Today, our international programming is housed in the Haenicke Institute for Global Education--named for my predecessor Diether H. Haenicke, a German native and scholar who championed international partnerships. The Haenicke Institute is led by Dr. Donald McCloud, a veteran international education professional with long-time ties in Asian nations such as Malaysia.

(Slide #7)

- We have a sizeable population of international students at WMU today

- More than 1,260 students pursuing degrees

- From 94 nations--Afghanistan to Zimbabwe

- You--this gathering today--represent 13 nations. Studying on the Western Michigan University campus this year are 170 students from your 13 nations.

(Slide #8)

- The five nations who send the largest number of students to WMU are:
 - Saudi Arabia (251)
 - India (179)
 - Dominican Republic (141)
 - China (127)
 - Malaysia (99)

- Since 1975, we've also hosted students studying English to prepare for degree programs at WMU or other American colleges and universities. Students come to us for varying lengths of time and become one more part of our vibrant campus community. CELCIS--our Center for English Language and Culture for International Students--offers:

(Slide #9)

- Semester-long instruction in English
- Special 6-8 week English language instruction
- Special courses can be offered for specific subjects such as U.S. culture, business, or engineering
- Intensive English classes for the international employees of local businesses, such as Kellogg's, I.I. Stanley, and Koyo Corporation in Battle Creek, Mich.

- We've developed special partnerships with many nations. Since we have a decades-old tradition of attracting international students, today's students are sometimes the children of students who attended WMU in the 1960s and 1970s. Their parents are business leaders, diplomats and elected officials who understand and have great affection for this nation. We're in the enviable position now of seeing their children come to Kalamazoo to continue their family's WMU tradition.

That tells us that the WMU experience was one that was valuable and worthy of repeating.

We continually look for ways to expand and strengthen our long-term partnerships. Some of our strongest are

-Transnational programs in which students do first two years at a university in their home nation, then finish the final two years at WMU.

(Slide#10)

We have such programs in partnership with:

- Malaysia's Sunway College--our oldest such partnership, launched in 1987
- India's Christ College
- India's Rajagiri School of Engineering and Technology
- Indonesia's Jakarta International College
- Kenya's Egerton University--our most recent transnational program established in 2006/

(Slide #11)

• We celebrate our students and their home countries every day, but some traditions have been established at WMU that put a particular focus on our international students and their home nations. These celebrations allow our students to share their enormous pride in their nations' culture and traditions.

-During our annual fall Homecoming celebration, our international students show their nations' colors in a Parade of Flags that has become a campus tradition.

(Slide #12)

-Every March our international students put on an International Festival that is attended by people throughout Southwest Michigan. It's become a favorite activity for families who want their children to get a taste of the food, language, art and culture of other nations.

And finally, individual international student groups put on programs such as Malaysia Night, the Japan Festival or the Russian Festival.

- But international education is a two-way street and we've been fortunate to forge partnerships and receive assistance that result in opportunities for our students to travel to your nations as well. We now have study abroad opportunities for U.S. students in more than 60 locations around the globe. We also have some special partnerships that foster faculty exchanges and contact between communities.

(Slide #13)

- A good example of such a partnership is our status as a member of the Confucius Institute network. We're one of fewer than 70 U.S. schools that are home to a Confucius Institute. Ours has been in place since November 2009. Through our institute, we are able to focus on language instruction and cultural exchange with our longtime academic ally, the prestigious Beijing Language and Culture University, China's premier international institution for language instruction.

- Great universities, by definition, attract and retain a diverse student body from within and outside their home nation. The benefits of that diversity to all students cannot be overemphasized in this global age.

(Slide #14)

I often recount my own transformation as a way to illustrate those benefits. I was raised in an insular small-town setting in southern Illinois. My worldview was transformed by the opportunity to attend a large public university and study, eat and live with students from across the globe. That transformation guided my career path and still influences the values to which I subscribe in sharing and learning from others throughout the world.

What was a positive benefit 40 years ago, today is a necessity. To succeed, our students--students from your nations and mine--must be at ease and able to work with their counterparts around the globe. Attending a school with international representation offers students a chance to validate their credentials on a world platform. That's an opportunity that can become a transformational experience.

I hope I've piqued your interest in learning more about both this community and Western Michigan University. I welcome any questions you may have.

Thank you.