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Tererai Trent Welcome

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• Good morning. Thank you all for being here for what is really a very fortunate opportunity. We will hear this morning from a WMU alumna who has a very special story to share--one that has captured the attention of the world. Dr. Tererai Trent's story is one of incredible personal determination and motivation. Dr. Trent's story is one with the power to literally stop us in our tracks, reexamine our own lives and rethink what we might be able to accomplish--despite any apparent barriers.

• On a more personal level, Dr. Trent will always hold a special place in my heart. Meeting her and being invited by her to play a meaningful role in the celebration of her ultimate success will always be a high-water mark for me as a University president. You have undoubtedly heard Dr. Trent described as "the woman who buried her dreams." It was my privilege two years ago to actually hold those dreams in my hands and affirm her achievement of those dreams by signing off on the final item.

• I am always proud of our graduates, but my regard for Dr. Trent goes beyond pride. She embodies the strength of the human race and her work shines a spotlight on the power of education to change the course of an individual's life. This University will always hold her in high esteem and we will be watching with Bronco pride as she sets--and achieves--the next set of goals in her life.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming our guest and our fellow Bronco, Dr. Tererai Trent.