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3-31-2012

Legacy of Cesar Chavez Scholarship Dinner Welcome

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WMU ScholarWorks Citation

Dunn, John M., "Legacy of Cesar Chavez Scholarship Dinner Welcome" (2012). *WMU President John Dunn*. 491.

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Welcome
Legacy of Cesar Chavez Scholarship Dinner
Dr. John M. Dunn
3/31/12

- Good evening, it is my pleasure to welcome you here and to say how pleased we are that Western Michigan University is the location of this annual Cesar E. Chavez Scholarship Banquet.

- This is the sixth year this event has been held here at WMU to bring the Southwest Michigan community together to celebrate the life and work of Cesar Chavez and to do so around Cesar Chavez Day--the anniversary of his March 31 birth. This evening, we have the added pleasure of honoring the legacy of Cesar Chavez on the 85th anniversary of his birth.

- This fundraising dinner, sponsored by the Southwest Michigan Cesar E. Chavez Committee, raises funds for the committee's need-based scholarship that is available to Michigan college or college-bound students living in Allegan, Calhoun, Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties.

- You know I've always admired both the tenacity and the sheer joy that Cesar Chavez brought to his work and the way he was able to inspire others with his simple insistence that the goals were always achievable. "Yes, it can be done," (Sí, se puede--if you care to try it in Spanish) was the message that carried him and those who followed him forward.

- I can't help but think that's the same message we give to the student recipients of these wonderful scholarships we're supporting this evening. And it's the same message that our guest speaker Elva Trevino [Tray-VEEN-yo] Hart has shared so eloquently through her writing. Whatever the goal is, it can be done. For many of us, our life goals were achieved not only through tenacity or perseverance--but also

with the assistance of those who came before and knew what seems impossible can be done.

- I'm proud to be part of a community and region that is determined to nurture and support the goals our young people have set. Please join me in a round of applause for the work done by the Southwest Michigan Cesar E. Chavez Committee in partnership with WMU's Division of Multicultural Affairs. They've done a wonderful job of keeping Chavez's vision and hopes for the future alive by supporting our young people.

- Enjoy the evening.