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VetSuccess Remarks Welcome

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VetSuccess Remarks Welcome
John M. Dunn
April 10, 2012

WMU ROTC Posts Colors (Caller for the color guard should ask the audience to stand and then be seated at the end)

- Good morning, I'm WMU President John M. Dunn, and I want to welcome all guests here today. Before introducing our special guest who will be making a major announcement, I'd like to acknowledge several people. First, I want to thank our color guard this morning--cadets from our Army ROTC program who took time from their day to help us set the tone for this occasion and who remind us all about the roles our student veterans and those students who plan to serve every day on our campuses.
- In our audience are two representatives of the U.S. Veterans Administration who traveled from Detroit to be with us for this event--David Van Allen and Brent Haddow. Joining me here at the podium are my colleagues President Marilyn Schlack of Kalamazoo Valley Community and President Dennis Bona, Kellogg Community College. They are not just my fellow presidents, but also my friends and fellow educators. Together, we have established a close working relationship--one that will guarantee the success of the initiative being announced today.
- Here to announce that initiative is Congressman Fred Upton. He truly needs no introduction—but I'm going to make a brief one anyway. Congressman Upton—Fred—represents the sixth congressional district and has, since 1987, developed a reputation for getting the job done for his constituents and for our nation. Since 2010, Fred has been Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, which has jurisdiction over matters concerning energy, healthcare, the environment,

telecommunications, commerce, manufacturing, and trade, as well as oversight and investigations.

- I will always remember with pleasure how he reached out to call, introduce himself and welcome me to his district when I was first named president of Western Michigan University. Since then, there have been a host of times we've worked together. I've noticed his operating mode is always the same. He wants to do what's right and what will benefit our citizens. Today's announcement is another example of that consistent support and his willingness to get things done. This time, the focus of his efforts is on our population of Michigan veterans, but the benefits will accrue to our state and nation. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Congressman Fred Upton.

-UPTON MAKES HIS ANNOUNCEMENT

-DUNN RETURNS TO THANK UPTON AND INTRODUCE SCHLACK TO SAY JUST A FEW WORDS.

-DUNN RETURNS TO INTRODUCE BONA TO MAKE BRIEF REMARKS

DUNN RETURNS TO CLOSE

- I'd like to add that we're enormously grateful to Congressman Upton for working so hard to make these new resources for our veterans a reality. He recognized that as higher education partners in Battle Creek and Kalamazoo, our three schools have established a wonderful working relationship that can be leveraged to ensure those who have served our nation are able to take advantage of the benefits they have earned to achieve the success they deserve. Not enough Michigan veterans are taking

full advantage of those benefits. VetSuccess should help us reach out and enable veterans to do just that.

- I'm very proud that we have more than 500 of those deserving young men and women here at WMU. They're the people who will truly benefit from today's news. A few of them have been able to join us here today. Let me single out one who is a great example of the kind of students VetSuccess will support. Jonathan Jackson is the president of WMU's Student Veterans of America. Sgt. Jackson is a reservist with the Army's 322nd Medical Company and he is an Iraq war veteran. He's pursuing a degree in biomedical sciences with a minor in philosophy. After he graduates in April 2014, he plans to attend medical school and become a pathologist or microbiologist. Sgt. Jackson, please stand and be recognized and accept our thanks for your service.

(I'd like to ask all other veterans here today to stand and let us acknowledge your service.)

- I'd also like to acknowledge one of the people who does the heavy lifting on our campus in terms of service to veterans--Tracey Moon, who runs our Advocacy Office for Military Affairs. Like her counterparts at KVCC and KCC, I know Tracey is delighted at the addition of VA personnel to our campuses because it will help our students.

And now, if Congressman Upton would return to the mike, I'd like to invite your questions about the program.

UPTON RETURNS TO PODIUM

(Likely there will not be many questions. You could close by thanking everyone again for being there and note that for the next few moments, there will be an opportunity afterward for people to ask questions of the various people involved in the VetSuccess initiative.