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DeNooyer Dealers Presentation

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DeNooyer Dealers Presentation
"What's New at WMU"
John M. Dunn
May 11, 2012

- Good Afternoon and thank you so much for asking me to be here today. I understand you are interested in learning about my favorite topic--"What's New at WMU"--so let's not waste any time. I have a lot to share.

Just one weekend

- Let me start with a couple of breaking news items. If you were ever curious about the economic and cultural impact of WMU on the greater Kalamazoo community, this weekend is a great time to illustrate it. Every year, WMU has what is about an \$800 million economic impact on this county.

- This morning I welcomed many of the 3,000-plus medieval scholars who are here from all over the globe to spend four days in Kalamazoo attending the 47th International Congress on Medieval Studies. We've been home to this event for 50 years (the first few congresses were biennial) and this is the largest gathering of medieval scholars in the world. Filling this community's hotels and restaurants are scholars from every state in the U.S., Canada and universities across Europe, Asia, South America and Latin America. They are monks and professors, museum curators, musicologists and military specialists. There are places in the world where Michigan is known for just two things that should be dear to your hearts--automobiles and Kalamazoo and its annual medieval congress.

- Sharing the campus with the medievalists this weekend, are some 1,000 high school student artists and their families from all around Michigan. The students are the cream of the crop in band, choral music, art, dance and writing who are attending

the 50th annual Michigan Youth Arts Festival. They won the opportunity to have their talents showcased here by winning their local competitions earlier this year.

This is just one weekend--granted a pretty busy one, but one of many such weekends that happen in our community because we come together to celebrate education.

Building projects on campus

- While our campus is populated by the world's medieval community and by young artists right now, the majority of our regular student body is away for the summer and they are in for some big surprises when they return in September. Major campus improvements are under way. Three days ago, we announced that we would be adding new buildings to our on-campus housing stock. Beginning this summer, we will launch an aggressive building project that will add two or three new buildings to our Western View apartment-style student residences. The first phase of the project was completed for occupancy last fall. The new buildings will come online for fall 2013. These two phases represent the first new student housing we've built on campus in some 50 years. The housing style--apartments--and amenities of this project are proving extraordinarily popular. Phase I is at full capacity and we expect the same response to Phase II.

- Also, while our students are home for the summer, we are putting the finishing touches on the transformation of the center of our campus. WMU's largest classroom building will open this fall. The new Sangren Hall is 230,000 square feet, four stories tall and designed to meet LEED gold standards. It will save us about \$350,000 annually in energy costs. The \$60 million Sangren project includes a landscaping "makeover" of the center of campus that will include walkways and green space as well as outdoor seating and water features that will turn the area that was once a series of roadways and parking lots into a campus gathering space. Visit the campus in late August and you will be amazed at the transformation. (But don't

come just yet, or you will be challenged to park and navigate the new area. It is an intensely busy construction zone.)

- Those two building projects are already and will continue to be responsible for hundreds of construction jobs in Kalamazoo County. We're enormously pleased that we have been able to undertake them at a time when every job means so much to our community.

Students showcasing WMU around the country

- While we're making news and enhancing the campus here at home, we have students out and about and carrying the WMU reputation and Kalamazoo identity to locations around the world. We are a **learner-centered, discovery driven and globally engaged university**, and our students and alumni illustrate that every day.

Here are just a few examples:

- Last week, two of our student filmmakers were featured on CNN. A short video they produced won first place in a national collegiate competition to explore the topic of press freedom for International Press Freedom Day. Judges, including Anderson Cooper, selected their film as the winner. They were flown to New York, interviewed on air and had their film aired by CNN and shown at an international press event.

- Also last week, our men's tennis team earned its ninth MAC tournament championship, its 31st overall MAC title and a berth to the NCAA tournament this weekend. They'll play No. 24 ranked University of Illinois.

- Meanwhile our women's softball team is headed for the MAC tournament semifinals this afternoon against CMU.

- And finally, I think you all know about the caliber of the WMU College of Fine Arts. Next week, a dance troupe from the college will appear at the Kennedy Center for the Arts in Washington, D.C., after winning the invitation to perform there at a hotly-contested regional competition sponsored by the

American College Dance Festival. And we have three phenomenal trombone students getting ready to head for Paris. They've been selected as finalists for international competitions that will put them up against students some of the top names among the world's music schools.

Medical school

- That's a rundown on some current news on campus. But I also want to bring you up to date on a much longer-term effort that will have a real impact on all of our lives for many years into the future--the WMU School of Medicine.

The Cliff notes version of this is that two years from now, we'll be ready to open a medical school that will be not just the newest medical school in the nation, but one that is also among the best. It will operate in the same entrepreneurial spirit that has made this community a hotbed for the life sciences and innovation.

For more than four years, we've been talking about this--first as a possibility and more recently as a reality. From the start, this has been a communitywide initiative. Our partners are this city's two world-class teaching hospitals--Borgess and Bronson.

We've said from the start it would be a privately funded medical school. That was the only way we would do it. Our focus from the start was to do this in a way that would not divert existing resources from our students and programs. We've been able to announce some huge developments along the way:

- In March of 2011, we announced a \$100 million anonymous gift to fund the school. That gift was among the ten largest cash gifts every made to an American public university. It was a transformational moment that illustrated we have the confidence of an important donor base and we can make this medical school happen with private funding. A gift like that--one that reflects

confidence in our work--has the tendency to attract additional private support. We're already seeing that happen.

-In December, we received another major gift--a seven-story, 330,000-square-foot building in downtown Kalamazoo that will serve as the home to the medical school. The former Upjohn/ Pharmacia/Pfizer research facility was given to us by MPI Research and William Parfet. Bill Parfet is the great grandson of W. E. Upjohn, and the site holds personal significance to him—and to us as well. The building sits on the piece of land W.E. Upjohn purchased in 1876 to launch his company. We're thrilled to be honoring that tradition. Late this year, we'll begin a major renovation to prepare it for the arrival of our first class of medical students in 2014.

Since December, we've been a bit quiet, and you may be wondering what's been happening. We've actually been pretty busy.

- The medical school has been recognized as a degree granting entity by the State of Michigan.
- Our accreditation materials have been completed and submitted to the national accrediting body Liaison Committee on Medical Education.
- The building renovation details are nearing completion
- The the school's governing board has been formally meeting and
- We're completing transition of Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies into the School of Medicine

For all of us and our families, neighbors and colleagues, this new school of medicine will mean:

- Continually enhanced health care
- A pipeline that will ensure future generations of physicians are part of our community.

- Increased economic development opportunities as medical research synergies develop around the new school
- A direct economic impact on our community of more than 200 medical students and their families.

All of us on campus are tremendously excited about the possibilities and we want every member of our community to fully understand the potential and the power of what is coming to fruition. In that spirit, I will stop here and answer any question you have about these or other campus developments.

Thank you.

About 13 minutes