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Transfer Student Orientation Welcome

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Welcome  
Dr. John M. Dunn  
Transfer Transition Welcome 2012

• Good morning. It's my job and my delight today is to offer the official formal welcome to you as new members of the Bronco family. We're glad you're here. You made a great decision when you chose Western Michigan University.

• We expect great things from you while you're a student here, and we know you'll accomplish great things when you're a proud Bronco alum--and believe me, that will happen sooner than you might think it possible at this point. Your next few years will be full ones and they will fly by with exceptional speed.

• You did your research well, and you may think you already know a lot about this university. Don’t' get too comfortable with that feeling. You'll be surprised at every turn. I've been here for five years now. Every time I think I know it all about WMU, I learn something new or we launch an important new initiative. Here are three things that have happened here in just the past two weeks.

- Three days ago, hundreds of people converged on our College of Engineering and Applied Sciences to watch 11 solar racecars built by students at the best engineering colleges in the nation--and that group of "best" engineering programs includes WMU. The cars and the students who built them were on Day #4 of a 1,600-mile cross-country road race from Rochester, N.Y. to St. Paul, Minn. The race ends tomorrow. We're not in the lead, but we're ahead of MIT.
Last week, a team from the Liaison Committee for Medical Education spent part of the week with us as the team conducted its accreditation visit for the new Western Michigan University School of Medicine that will open in fall 2014. They left with the same impression that most visitors have--they were deeply impressed with our university and the community that surrounds us.

And two weeks ago today--in Paris--our music program enjoyed a moment that can only be described as a "trombone triumph." Graduating senior Eric Bowman won the International Trombone Festival's solo competition. Our music school, which has an international reputation as the school to beat for many areas, had three trombone players competing in Paris this year.

You will be continually amazed at everything happening here. I've just told you about three first-rate academic happenings. You'll find the same caliber of social and cultural opportunities.

• Take advantage of everything this university offers and you'll truly understand what it means to be part of a university that is--learner centered, discovery driven and globally engaged.

• Your studies come first, of course, and you've already figured that out. But being a successful person means being able to balance work and fun. It means trying new things, meeting new people and learning both inside and outside the classroom. Don't miss a chance to do any of that.

• I hope to see you here in Miller watching Broadway shows; across the plaza at the Richmond Center for Visual Arts or at the Dalton Center; in Bronco Stadium,
Lawson Arena and Read Fieldhouse for athletic events; on the intramural fields having fun; and downtown enjoying the Kalamazoo community. Think about joining a student organization and plan on playing a leadership role now or in the future. Consider a study abroad program. Explore. Make friends with a faculty member (you'll be surprised at how easy it is).

• I'm looking forward to getting to know you. When you see me on campus, don't be shy about introducing yourself and talking. I try to greet and talk with as many students as I can, but I'd love it if you tap me on the shoulder as we're standing in line at Bigbees and just tell me who you are and how your student experience is going.

• As the next couple of years speed by--and believe me they will--I will watch your progress with pride. In due course, I'll be standing on the Miller Auditorium stage to shake your hand and present your diploma. It will be a moment in which we both will feel a great sense of accomplishment.

Welcome to WMU. Enjoy your transition activities, and get ready for the ride of a lifetime and remember to "Grab the Reins."