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Muskegon Community College Dual Enrollment Signing Ceremony

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Good Afternoon and welcome to our campus President Nesbary, Vice President Sirrus and guests.

The Muskegon community is a special place for those of us who are part of Western Michigan University. For more than 100 years we've partnered with organizations in that community. In fact, we offered our first extension courses in Muskegon in 1909 and we've had a regional location there for more than 50 years. The ties are deep. We treasure our relationships in that community, and every year, we welcome about 400 Muskegon County students to our campus—including many who began their collegiate careers at Muskegon Community College.

One of our great points of pride in Muskegon is the fact that President Nesbary is one of our alumni. We take great pride as a University in that fact, and I take great personal pleasure in knowing that we have a strong supporter at MCC and one who is so knowledgeable about WMU.

Muskegon Community College has been a strong and longtime partner to WMU and for many years, has been a leader in providing top-notch higher education opportunities for students. Today's agreement helps both of us better serve students by ensuring continuity, expanding students' early options and guaranteeing that every class they successfully complete puts them one step closer to earning a degree. Students who enroll in the program will be both Jayhawks and Broncos from their very first days in college.
• Today is all about providing more opportunity for Muskegon area students. At its core, the agreement we've just signed is about providing more opportunities for students and making their path to higher ed success seamless and well coordinated. We're working together to support students and their choices and to ensure their options for the future are strong.

• Today's agreement takes the institutional partnership we've established over the years to the next level by leveraging our resources in a way that will help student families get the maximum benefit when they invest their resources in higher education.

• It's the best of both worlds for students--two years laying the groundwork at a first-rate community college close to home, and then seamless transition to the business college of a major public research university.

• We hope this will be a model--a template--for additional programs in the future as we identify more disciplines that will benefit Muskegon-area students. President Nesbary, I look forward to meeting with you on a regular basis to hold signing occasions like this one.