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OT 90th Anniversary Celebration

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• Good afternoon and congratulations to everyone affiliated with the Western Michigan University Department of Occupational Therapy.

• Your department is 90 years old this year. In that 90 years, you have built a department that is among the top 25 departments in the nation in a profession that is ranked as a top-10 job for 2012 by U.S. News & World Report.

• Your predecessors set the stage for our growth as a multidisciplinary national research university when they launched what was to become one of the first five such programs in the nation to be accredited as well as this University's first non-teacher-education program.

• The level of excellence and innovation established by founder Marion Spear set the tone and reputation for this wonderful department and made it a leader in the field. When you do something, people in and out of your discipline take note. When you launched a second OT program in Grand Rapids in 1909, it didn't take long for that program to also rise to the top of the field.

• Today, in a ranking 151 programs in occupational therapy, the program on campus here in Kalamazoo is ranked #21 in the nation, and that brand new program at our regional location in Grand Rapids is ranked #36. Both of those programs, I might add, outrank any other program in Michigan.

• This department's level of commitment to helping patients perform daily living really set the ethos and trajectory for the College of Health and Human Services. You were the first department in the college and played an enormous role in
establishing its reputation for research, for client care and above all for educating
generations of health care professionals.

• Thank you for inviting me to be part of your celebration. Enjoy the party. You've
earned it.