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Make-a-Difference Awards

John M. Dunn

Western Michigan University, john.dunn@wmich.edu

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Make a Difference Awards
Dr. John M. Dunn
Dec. 3, 2012

- Good afternoon and thank you all for being here to celebrate the extraordinary service of the staff members we're honoring today. We see their work as extraordinary, but I know from experience that these employees usually don't see what they do as exceptional. They see what they do as a labor of love and the right thing to do.
- There are 13 people being honored. Today's honorees represent a broad swath of our campus. They come from four academic areas, our regional operations, admissions, student affairs, facilities management, dining services and information technology. They are people who have built their careers at Western Michigan University and they reach out to our students and their colleagues in a way that is driven not by their job descriptions, but by their genuine commitment to and concern for those who are part of our community. Together, they represent our commitment to being learner centered, discovery driven and globally engaged.
- You know, we've been honoring employees this way for more than 18 years--first through our Staff Service Excellence Awards and, since 2004, through the Make a Difference award program. We won't run out of people to honor, because employees like those being honored today serve as role models who inspire all of us to take that extra step, spend that extra moment assisting a student or make sure a project is done just right. I

expect some of the people who work with these 13 employees to be honored in the future. Doing the right thing is contagious.

- To those of you honored today, I simply say, "Thank You." What you do in your job everyday makes this a very special environment for our students, for our colleagues and for all the audiences we serve. You set the tone for our campus, and you've set the bar very high as you lead by example.

- Thank you to each of you for what you do each day for our University. Thank you for making our students safe, healthy and ready to succeed. And thank you for giving all of us role models to emulate as we continue about the important work we do.

- Enjoy the celebration today and keep up the extraordinary work.

Fall Award Recipients

- **Mitchell Beare**, Bernhard Center
- **Debra Bitterman**, Dining Services - Bernhard Café and Market
- **Jean Bowsky-Verschoof**, Bernhard Center
- **Ann Ganz**, Haenicke Institute for Global Education
- **Jill Hamilton**, Admissions
- **Richard McMullen**, Center for Academic Success Programs
- **Angela Minckler**, School of Communication
- **Jennifer Morrow**, world languages and literatures
- **Gladys Sims**, Extended University Programs-Grand Rapids
- **Christopher Sligh**, Student Activities and Leadership Programs
- **Arthur Smith**, Office of Information Technology
- **Stacey Tyler**, dance