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BC/Kalamazoo United Way Reception

John M. Dunn
Western Michigan University, john.dunn@wmich.edu

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Good evening. I'm John M. Dunn, president of Western Michigan University. It is my distinct pleasure to welcome all of you here this evening on behalf of The United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region and Western Michigan University and our College of Aviation.

This evening's venue--with its roots both in Kalamazoo and Battle Creek--is a perfect symbol of the collaboration between two organizations that led us last year to a successful new two-community partnership that leverages the resources and committed supporters of two strong communities with one common goal.

Both communities share a common trait that will make this collaboration work long into the future. Both communities are committed to improving the quality of life for everyone in our region. It's a commitment I'm proud to say is shared and endorsed by my University's faculty, staff and students in both locations.

On a personal level, I've been honored to be a part of the United Way leadership over the past several years. The experience has given me insights that I can take with me when I travel and promote our communities to organizations around the nation.
United Way recognizes that the social challenges in education, income and health are not bound by city borders and county lines. As a catalyst for change, United Way brings together the human and financial resources needed to change the story across this region.

• Each of you plays an important part in that effort. That’s why we’re here tonight … to celebrate our shared success … to honor those who make it possible … and to commit ourselves to continuing to advance the common good.

• Welcome … congratulations on a successful first campaign together and enjoy your evening!

• Now, pleas join me in welcoming the President and C-E-O of the United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region … Mike Larson.

(Lead applause)