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Cesar Chavez Scholarship Dinner Welcome

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Cesar Chavez Scholarship Dinner Welcome
John M. Dunn
March 22, 2013

- 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. This is the seventh time WMU has been privileged to act as host to the Cesar E. Chavez Scholarship Fundraising Dinner. [SAY-zar CHA-vez]
- This annual dinner, sponsored by the Southwest Michigan Cesar E. Chavez Committee, has three basic goals. First, it raises funds for the committee's need-based scholarship, which is available to Michigan college- or college-bound students living in Allegan, Calhoun, Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties.
- And second, it brings the Southwest Michigan community together to celebrate the life and work of Cesar Chavez and to do so around Cesar Chavez Day--the anniversary of his March 31 birth. Each year when we do this, we also celebrate the determination and commitment Cesar Chavez always showed with his signature phrase, "Yes, it can be done"-- Sí, se puede. We pass that spirit of commitment and achievement on to the scholarship winners we honor. Richard and Miguel, that is both our message to you this evening and our hope for your future.
- And finally, this annual dinner is a chance to hear the views of a keynote speaker who has made a life's work of the kind determination and joyful spirit that Cesar Chavez practiced. This evening, our colleague from Michigan State University Dr. Ruben O. Martinez will fill that role. Welcome Dr. Martinez we're so pleased you are here.

- As always, I'm so proud to be part of a community and region that is determined to nurture and support the goals our young people have set. Please join me in a round of applause for the work done by the Southwest Michigan Cesar E. Chavez Committee in partnership with WMU's Division of Multicultural Affairs. They continue to do a wonderful job of keeping Chavez's vision and hopes for the future alive.

- Enjoy the evening.

(nearly 3 minutes)