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Part-Time Faculty Welcome

John M. Dunn

Western Michigan University, john.dunn@wmich.edu

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President John M. Part-time Faculty Welcome
Dr. John M. Dunn
8/26/13

- Good afternoon. It is my absolute pleasure to welcome all of you to a new academic year--one that will be full of promise and accomplishment. I'm delighted you're here with us this year. Whether you've been a part-time faculty member for many years or if this is your first year as a member of our academic community, you play an incredibly role in the success of our students and, ultimately, everything we do as a University.
- This week, we're welcoming more than 3,000 new beginning students as well as returning students who will bring our total student body to around 25,000. Every interaction they have--good and bad--determines how they feel about this institution and ultimately whether they find success. You are on the front lines in that daily good interaction and have a major impact on their ability to adopt and internalize effective learning strategies. Please know how much your role is valued and honored.
- This year is already off to a great start, and I suspect you are already feeling that we've all hit the ground running. Here are just a few things you can expect to see in the coming months:
 - Opening of the new Zhang Legacy Collections Center on our Oakland Drive Campus,
 - The launch of the Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School,
 - Celebration of the 50th anniversary of a speech by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on our campus, and
 - Finishing touches on our new School of Medicine that will kick off at this time next year with its entering class of medical students

- Those are just a few items you can look forward to being part of. We're also just moved into the second year of our three-year strategic plan. You've likely heard the basic tenant of that plan. It is to ensure that we remain and continue forward in our identity as a learner centered, discovery driven and globally engaged university. That's the 30,000-foot view. Like any good plan, there are detailed goals and strategies to embrace. I invite you to become knowledgeable about those goals and strategies and become a fully informed and engaged member of our University community.

- I hope you have a wonderful few days settling in for the semester. A week from tomorrow, it all starts. And it may well be next August before this kind of leisurely gathering is possible. Please enjoy this afternoon's event and introduce yourself here or when we meet on campus. I look forward to getting to know you and I hope to see you take advantage of the full range of opportunities--artistic, cultural, intellectual and athletic--that are part of a great University.

- This is a great community to be part of, and a great University with a great mission. I'm glad you are part of it. As I tell our students, it's always a great day to be a Bronco.