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Paper Technology Foundation Annual Banquet

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• Good evening. It is always a pleasure to welcome the members of the Paper Technology Foundation here for this annual awards banquet and celebration of student scholarship winners.

• The Paper Technology Foundation has a better-than 55-year record of focusing on just one thing--supporting students who will be the next generation of leaders for the paper and allied industries. That kind of focus certainly has my gratitude and admiration. Thank you for all you do for our students.

• Thank you for what you make possible--both during our students' undergraduate years and when they enter the work force and begin their careers. Scholarships, internships and co-ops are among the tools you've refined to an art form. It's an art form I'd love to see emulated in disciplines across our campus.

• The results of your work are amazing. Our students are in such high demand by the paper industry, that the program as a whole enjoys a 100 percent job placement rate and its graduates have the highest base salaries ($65,000 to $70,000) among graduates in all WMU majors.

• Underlying that success are scholarships from the Paper Technology Foundation, offering each student $33,000 toward their degrees. We're here this evening to honor and recognize the 2013-14 scholarship recipients you have selected. And, Students, you have indeed made a great decision to attend Western Michigan University. You have a wonderful future ahead of you.
• I know you'll take full advantage of and use your scholarship wisely. What I'd also urge you to do is to take full advantage of the wisdom and industry knowledge represented by the Paper Technology Foundation members here this evening. These are people who commit themselves to those who will come behind them. They are generous in their outreach to students, and are frequent visitors to our campus. Their knowledge and interest in you and your future is as important a gift as the scholarship they have awarded you.

• Enjoy your conversations with them over dinner this evening, and don't miss a chance to thank them and keep the friendship moving forward.

• Thank you for inviting me to be with you this evening for this special occasion. Enjoy your time together and Go Broncos!