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Campus Sustainability/Honeywell Celebration

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WMU President John M. Dunn
Campus Sustainability/Honeywell Celebration
Oct. 23, 2013

- Good morning and thank you all for being here on national Campus Sustainability Day. The annual event was established more than a decade ago with, I believe Western Michigan University in mind. We began our observance last night and will continue throughout the day to showcase our commitment.

- Our colleagues from Honeywell are here to share news about the most recent WMU campus accomplishments in energy conservation. And they are exceptional. But before you hear from them, it's my job to set the stage and share a bit about our sustainability history. To do that, I'm going to go back a bit--17 years to be exact, and I understand there's some slides that will illustrate the news.

- Since 1996, our campus building square footage has increased by 19 percent. During that same 17-year period, our total energy consumption has decreased by 15 percent. Our campus has accomplished that with 95 energy conservation projects.

- Our buildings have been designed to continue that record. We have seven buildings/developments now LEED certified and another 10 with certification in process. Our College of Health and Human Services building was the first higher education building in the nation to earn LEED--Existing Building gold.

- So all of those savings mean that over 17 years, we've reduced our CO2 emissions by 281 million pounds, which is the equivalent of adding 3.2 million trees to the planet or removing 26,000 vehicles from the road.

- But we aren't done. Our sustainability and facilities management staff saw an opportunity to move quickly and with great impact in a short time. That kind of work is

good for our community and good for the earth. So, I'm going to turn the microphone over now and let our guests tell you a bit about how our community's commitment to sustainability, what the new work is already accomplishing and how a partnership with Honeywell will enable and extend the work of one of our graduate students.

Thank you.