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## Southwest Michigan Innovation Center Anniversary Celebration

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WMU President John M. Dunn  
Southwest Michigan Innovation Center Anniversary Celebration  
Oct. 23, 2013

It is my absolute privilege and pleasure to close the program this evening. It means I have the opportunity to voice one more note of congratulations, on behalf of the entire Western Michigan University Community, to the Southwest Michigan Innovation Center on the occasion of its 10th Anniversary.

The Innovation Center and the university have been partners since the very beginning. We are proud the Innovation Center is located on our Parkview Campus, in the heart of the Business Technology and Research Park, and we are proud that it has served as home for nearly the past 10 years to our Biosciences Research and Commercialization Center. This is a partnership that has brought scientists and their companies together and launched untold numbers of careers for our students.

Companies in the "SMIC" hire our graduates and offer internships to our students. In turn, the University offers adjunct faculty positions to scientists employed by the firms. We make our facilities on campus available as resources. And a number of our deans have served as members of the Innovation Center's Board. In short, the type of synergy envisioned 10 years ago has taken root, grown and blossomed.

And now our partnership is poised to expand even further, as WMU prepares to open its new School of Medicine in just a few short months. The leadership of the med school and that of the Innovation Center have already met to begin exploring ways where they can partner in the areas of research and medical education. The partnership will only get stronger, and our community will only benefit from that strength.

So thank you to the Southwest Michigan Innovation Center and its leadership for helping

retain and create hundreds of jobs in our community, for infusing hundreds of millions of dollars into our local economy, and for being a great partner to Western Michigan University."

"Here's to another 10 years....and beyond!"

Thank you all for being here this evening and travel safely home.