WMU President John Dunn
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Capitol Interns Reception

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• Good afternoon. I'm happy to be here with you to celebrate another successful spring semester of the Capitol Internship Program. Each year since 1991, up to 15 students have been able to reap the benefits of working in government offices in Lansing.

• The program was developed by the Department of Political Science in cooperation with the Lee Honors College, and the quality of the placements you have been enjoying are the product of years of outreach by Dr. David Houghton who envisioned the program and cultivated the relationships needed to make it a reality. It's really his work that led to the caliber of internships available at places like the Governor's office, the Supreme Court, the House Fiscal Agency, party offices and state lobbying agencies.

• To date, more than 200 students have completed a spring semester in Lansing, showcasing the quality of WMU students to the Lansing political community and allowing students like you an opportunity to get some real experience and invaluable insights. Today is really a celebration of what has happened to those 200, and what is in store for those who will be part of this program in the future.

• Someone I met early in my time here, Jeff Breneman, was among those who had an early internship arranged by Dr. Houghton. The 1991 alumnus credits his internship with laying the groundwork for his first real-world job--which he was able to begin the day after his graduation. He worked for eight years as deputy chief of Staff for Congressman Fred Upton, then he led this university's legislative
efforts for four years before moving to Bosch Automotive's North American governmental operations and then to his current position as a public policy consultant in Washington, D.C., with the multi-industry firm mCapitol.

I hope you all find the ability to translate what you've learned in your internships this spring into the kind of skills and knowledge that will help you achieve that kind of success. We'll be watching your progress.