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4-17-2014

## Humanities for Everyone Graduation Event

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### WMU ScholarWorks Citation

Dunn, John M., "Humanities for Everyone Graduation Event" (2014). *WMU President John Dunn*. 521.  
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Humanities for Everyone Graduation Event  
Dr. John M. Dunn  
April 17, 2014

- Good evening and congratulations. I am absolutely delighted to be part of your celebration this evening and so very proud our community has been able to work together to offer course topics that are of interest and use to you--and in a location that makes them accessible and convenient to you.
- You are the third graduating class in this program. We're delighted that about half of you were able to be here this evening. Some who were unable to attend had very good reasons for missing this celebration--a job, for instance, and family obligations.
- Our ability as a community to come together to make this happen is really the product of collaboration by the Eastside Neighborhood Association, Kalamazoo Neighborhood Housing Services and Western Michigan University's Center for the Humanities. Even more important is the commitment by volunteers to make this happen. We have graduate assistants, volunteer coordinators and volunteer faculty members. These are people who give their time and energy because they believe so strongly in the transformative power of education.
- We like to say we're learner centered, discovery driven and globally engaged. That's why we feel so strongly about promoting the humanities. It includes the body of knowledge that allows us to succeed at all three goals. Studying the humanities, as you know, provides the resources we need to thoughtfully examine the issues of the day.

- We've got three successful years behind us now, and I understand next year's classes and faculty members are already lining up. That will be a success as well. I hope you return and encourage your family and friends to be involved as well.
- Thank you for being part of this initiative, for staying the course--literally--and being here to celebrate your accomplishments with us.