5-7-2014

United for Change Career Day Parchment and Comstock Jr. High Students

John M. Dunn
Western Michigan University, john.dunn@wmich.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/dunn

Part of the Higher Education Commons

WMU ScholarWorks Citation
• Good morning and welcome to Western Michigan University. We're delighted you're here today to explore career opportunities you may want to pursue.

• You'll get some information about careers you might already be thinking about. But even more important is the fact you may hear about a few careers you don't know about or never considered. You'll hear about those options from people who are already working in fields like engineering, health care, information technology, retail sales, construction, manufacturing, communication and natural resources.

• You may hear about something that's a perfect fit for you—or you may not. The important thing is to start the process of finding that perfect opportunity that is both challenging and fun and fits your interests—something that you can picture yourself doing and enjoying.

• The other thing I hope you learn today is how much a college degree will help you—regardless of the career path you take. I'd love it if you choose to come to WMU, but the message I really want to leave you with is this.

• Go to college. Start getting ready now to go to college. Push yourself now. Give every class assignment your best effort. Read. Listen carefully. If you haven’t figured out what study routine works best for you, ask for help from your teachers or friends whose study habits have proven successful. It’s absolutely fine if you don’t know today what career path you want to follow. Make it your goal to go to
college and explore the options. You will be amazed at the variety of careers open to you--jobs you never knew about.

• I speak from experience. I was your age once, and I had a pretty good idea of what I wanted to do--I wanted to be a teacher and maybe a coach. I knew it would mean going to college, so that became my goal and my family's goal. Even knowing what I wanted to study, I was amazed when I got to college at the world that opened up for me. Back then I never dreamed of being a university president. When I think about it, it still surprises me that my life has led me here, to this world-class institution.

• While you're walking around campus today, having lunch in the cafeteria and sitting in some of our classrooms, see if you can picture yourself on campus in five or six years. Imagine what it feels like to have all of these people and programs focused on making you the successful adult you want to be.

• Then, go home and start laying your plans. Make sure you take the courses in high school you need, study and keep your grades up. Set your goals and accomplish them one step at a time. Whenever you do, that you'll be that much closer to hitting your big goal--being the person you want to be.

• Enjoy yourself on campus today. We'd love to see you back here many times as you begin thinking about what you want to do and where to go to school. You are always welcome here.