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Air Zoo Innovation Hall of Fame Gala

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• Good evening. Thank you Troy for that kind introduction, and my congratulations to you and your staff. You truly do know how to throw a wonderful party.

• We are delighted to be this evening's presenting sponsor. Aviation is in our DNA at Western Michigan University. We're celebrating 75 years of aviation education this year. And this week, our Sky Broncos are at Ohio State competing for the National Intercollegiate Flight Association Championship. Our team has qualified for that competition for 22 consecutive years. Put in basketball terms, that's a bit like making the NCAA final four every year.

• Aviation, the STEM disciplines and the fine arts are central to our University's academic core. You've had an opportunity to see just a few examples from our aviation and engineering colleges this evening. We have long agreed that the arts and creativity are critical elements to any good education and heartily applaud this evening's focus on STEAM--science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. Building a closer relationship between this museum and WMU was an idea whose time had come, and this celebration seemed like the perfect opportunity to launch that partnership."

• On behalf of everyone at Western Michigan University I'd like to offer our congratulations to tonight's inductees into the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame. It is an incredible honor for an individual who has made important contributions to
the industry. I can tell you from experience how gratifying it was to have our College of Aviation inducted as an organization in 2008.

• And my personal and our University's collective congratulations go to each of this evening’s teachers and students being honored for innovation and excellence in the STEAM disciplines. We are so proud of you and what you've accomplished.

• Thank you, and enjoy the celebration.

(well under three minutes)