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## Diversity Video--Questions & Suggested Answers

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Diversity Video--Questions & Suggested Answers  
President John M. Dunn  
June 13, 2014

*(Video group's intended questions in bold. Suggested responses in plain text.)*

**Section 1 'commitment doctrine'**

**Interviewer: Could you speak briefly on Western Michigan University's commitment to diversity, and the role diversity will play in the 21st century?**

Respondent (we expect about 1-2 minute response)

At Western Michigan University, we look at diversity in the very broadest sense of the term. True diversity encompasses the ethnic racial, economic, geographic and social components of society. As a University preparing students to live and work in a diverse, global society for many decades to come, we have the opportunity, and the responsibility, to help young people become familiar and comfortable with the enormous variety of people they will encounter. When we do that, we give them a leg up on the competition and we help make them more thoughtful about any challenges they encounter in their communities. International travel and doing business in a global community have become the norm. Leaving here, our students will be ready to take advantage of every opportunity.

**Section 2 'man on the street'**

**Interviewer: When you hear diversity, what are the first things that come to mind?**

Variety, ideas, new experiences.

When someone says "diversity" my mind always goes back to my first days in college. I came from a tiny Illinois town and everyone looked and acted a lot like me. When I attended college I had my first chance to live, eat, work, play and go to

class with people from all over the country and all around the world. The lessons I learned in that environment are the ones that have stayed with me and helped me as I travel around the world. That's what I want for every one of our students.

The word "diversity" also makes me anticipate the wide variety of ideas and perspectives that come from having access to people from other backgrounds and cultures--the more the better.

### **Section 3 'The Award'**

ODI staff member (most likely Lillian Manning) to speak on the process of the award.