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WMed First Class Welcome Message

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To the first students of the WMU Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine--

Welcome! On behalf of Western Michigan University and the Board of Directors of the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine, I am very pleased to welcome you to Kalamazoo and WMed, your new academic home. You might not realize it, but you play an integral part in an historic moment for this university and city, a moment that we have been dreaming of and working toward for several years. With a special salute to our faithful partners in this endeavor, Borgess Health and Bronson Health Care, the Western Michigan University Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine is today a reality. School is in session!

You will find that Dean Hal Jenson and his administrative team have developed a curriculum that includes the latest, best approaches to the education of future physicians. The curriculum is founded on tradition--what we know works--but it also captures the comprehensive and ever-evolving needs of tomorrow's physicians and the patients they will serve. The spectacular new facility where you will study has been purposefully designed for adaptability and innovative learning. You and your classmates will help to determine its optimum use and future traditions.

I hope you realize that being a member of the inaugural class brings with it special distinction and responsibility. The students of WMed's first class were selected thoughtfully and carefully. We are confident that you possess the intellect, compassion and tenacity to become an excellent physician and we're counting on you to set the highest standard in your academic, clinical, and research pursuits. Your best performance will solidify the reputation of this School as one of the nation's finest. Your personal commitment to excellence is essential.

Remember always that this is your school. Your personal contributions and feedback will shape the experiences that will lead to the success of your class and the classes that follow. Do not hesitate to share your comments or concerns. When you encounter challenges, breathe deeply, remain calm and turn to your faculty and dean who are here to help you reach your academic and professional goals.

Finally, I look forward to meeting you. I plan to watch with pride your development and, ultimately, your contributions to the expanding health care needs of our nation.

Sincerely,

John M. Dunn
President of Western Michigan University
Chair of the Board of Directors of the WMU Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine