



WMU President John Dunn

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WMU Night at the Ford Museum

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WMU Night at the (Ford) Museum
John M. Dunn
Oct. 27, 2014

- Thank you all so much for being here this evening. Welcome students. And welcome student families. Wow! What a terrific venue for our gathering tonight.
- You're here because you want to know more about what Western Michigan University has to offer and whether the right move for you is to "Go West." I can and will gladly give you a litany of reasons why you should carefully consider Western Michigan University and why you should listen closely and look carefully at what you'll hear and see this evening. It doesn't take much to get me going and give you reason after reason why you should carefully consider becoming a Bronco.
- This is an exciting period on campus for all our students. This fall, we opened the Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine, named for the medical device pioneer. The medical school is at home on the spectacular W.E. Upjohn M.D. campus--which is located on the property that Dr. Upjohn purchased 150 years ago to begin his pharmaceutical company in Kalamazoo. The Stryker and Upjohn names on the medical school help set the stage for medical education that is all about innovation. And for our undergraduates, the new medical school has a preferred school arrangement that gives WMU graduates an edge in admission.
- And just two months ago, we finalized an affiliation that created the Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School. That move also will benefit WMU undergrads. By this time next year, for instance, we expect to have a 3+3 program that will allow students to earn a bachelor's degree AND a law degree in just six years, shaving a full year off the usual seven years that normally takes.

- We have programs that are known nationally and internationally. As a matter of fact, if there was a "final four" in areas like jazz studies, supply chain management, aviation or medieval studies, we'd be there every year. We're known for the quality of our academics and for the quality of a host of other initiatives. Over the past month, for instance, This University has been ranked No. 13 in the nation as an affordable, eco-friendly campus and No. 4 in the nation as an Electric-Vehicle Friendly campus--nudging out MIT, which came in at No. 5.

- We are continually developing new areas of study to fit emerging careers. This year, for instance, our new programs include one MultiMedia Arts Technology-Music and another in Freshwater Science and Sustainability. Both are extraordinarily popular and help students establish clear career paths.

- No matter what major you choose, we want you to be successful, so we've invested ourselves and our resources in making our programs the very best they can be. We have people in every college and in every office whose first priority is to make sure our students succeed in class, find their career path and prepare to be the citizens and professionals who will lead our nation forward.

- Your university experience will be transformative--because of what you learn both inside and outside the classroom. I know that because I had the good fortune to attend a diverse public university as a student. My worldview was changed by what I learned from my professors, of course, but also from what I learned by having the opportunity to study, eat, live and work with students from across the globe and from every conceivable background. That was--a few--years ago, but that experience guided my career path and still influences and informs me every day. That transformative experience is what we all wish for you.

- What kind of people will you meet here?

- Students from every conceivable income level and background--in recent years our graduates have ranged from the child of a U.S. cabinet member to one of the "Lost Boys of Sudan."

- Students from every state in the nation and all of Michigan's counties

- Students from 100 other countries on all the world's continents

- Students from all of the world's major belief systems and religions

- Veterans--we have more vets of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars than any other Michigan university, and we've just been honored for being one of the nation's best colleges for vets.

- I hope your time here with us this evening is informative and I hope it provides you with all the information you need to make the right decision to become a Bronco. Be sure to ask about our new residence halls and plans for a new dining hall in our Valley Neighborhood. If you have any questions not answered this evening, send me an email--john.dunn@wmich.edu--and I'll make sure you get an answer. Enjoy the event. I hope to see you on campus in the near future.

Thank you.