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## WMU Cooley Alumni Event-Kalamazoo

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WMU President John M. Dunn  
WMU Cooley Alumni Event-Kalamazoo  
Oct. 30, 2014

- Good evening. Let me just start by saying that it's a great day to be a Bronco. I've been telling my Cooley colleagues that for years now, and they tell me they agree. I hope you feel the same, because the Western Michigan University community is absolutely delighted to welcome you as members of the Bronco nation. And indeed, several of you already have a long history as both WMU and Cooley alumni. Your numbers are about to grow.
- You probably know that this affiliation is the outcome of about three years of intense work by both schools, but the University's desire to have a law school available to its students really goes back decades. Legal and medical education is part of what great universities offer. We've been fortunate this fall to launch both medical and legal programs under the aegis of WMU.
- We are so pleased to create even stronger ties with Cooley--your law school --because its core tenets so closely mirror our own commitment to diversity, access and opportunity. We have a strong relationship with Cooley that is more than a decade long and includes three joint degree programs already. Over the three years we discussed and worked on this, the momentum and enthusiasm for this agreement grew quickly as more and more faculty and staff at both schools got to know--and really like--their counterparts.
- And both institutions were blessed to have governing boards who "got it" and were supportive from the start. I hope you know that both boards have members who, like some of you, hold degrees from both institutions.

- All the time and the effort that has gone into making this affiliation a reality is not about either institution. It is all about students--WMU students and Cooley's students--and ultimately what they will bring to our state and nation. And it's about decades of future students. The qualities they will be able to develop and the people they will become are what this affiliation is about.
- Where do we go from here? The script is still to be written. As all of you know, there is really no area of study or employment that can't benefit by the addition of the study of law. We keep finding new areas we want to explore--accounting, intellectual property, foster care, aviation, health care--the list goes on and on, and we're all so excited about the possibilities. And we hope the joint efforts we develop will tap your expertise as well.
- Please consider our campus your home. Plan to spend time here and take advantage of your new affiliation. You may want to start by being in Waldo Stadium on Nov. 15 when our two schools' affiliation will be recognized at our annual Education Day football game. It will be a few days before we'll know the time, but please plan to come, do some tailgating, tour the campus and have some fun.
- If you'd like to help and be part of this work over the coming years, let me know. We're always looking for enthusiastic partners. Enjoy your gathering this evening, and Go Broncos--all of you.