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Make-a-Difference Awards

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Good afternoon, and thank you all for being here to celebrate the extraordinary service of the staff members we're honoring today. We see their work as extraordinary, but I know from experience that these employees usually don't see what they do as exceptional. They see what they do as a labor of love and the right thing to do.

Today's honorees represent a broad swath of our campus. They are people who have built their careers at Western Michigan University and they reach out to our students and their colleagues in a way that is driven not by their job descriptions, but by their genuine commitment to and concern for those who are part of our community. Together, they truly represent our institution’s commitment to being learner centered, discovery driven and globally engaged.

You know, we've been honoring employees this way for more than 18 years--first through our Staff Service Excellence Awards and, since 2004, through the Make a Difference award program. And, I predict we won’t run short of people to step into the spotlight, because employees like those being honored today serve as role models who inspire all of us to take that extra step, spend that extra moment assisting a student or make sure a project is done just right. I expect some of the people who work with these honored employees to be honored themselves in the future. Doing the right thing is contagious.

To the 14 honorees, I simply say, "Thank You." What you do in your job everyday makes this a very special environment for our students, for our colleagues and for all the audiences we serve. You set the tone for our campus, and you've set the bar very high as you lead by example.
• Thank you to each of you for what you do each day for our University. Thank you for making our students safe, healthy and ready to succeed. And thank you for giving all of us role models to emulate as we continue about the important work we do.

• Enjoy the celebration today and keep up the extraordinary work.

**Fall Award Recipients**

- Julie Carr, Career and Student Employment Services
- Luacia Dixon, Student Financial Aid
- Debora Karnemaat, Sindecuse Health Center
- Sandra Kelly, Office of Information Technology
- Michelle Loedeman, Accounts Receivable
- Pamela Mottley, Department of English
- Raymond Murphy, Facilities Management-Maintenance Services
- Matthew Page, Department of Public Safety
- Sarah Pratt, Office of the Vice President for Research
- Lorrie Racine, Office of Admissions
- Caroline Ray, Haworth College of Business
- Christine Robinson, Haworth College of Business
- Amy Seth, University Recreation
- Tara Severino, Haenicke Institute for Global Education