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Admitted Student Reception

John M. Dunn

Western Michigan University, john.dunn@wmich.edu

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Admitted Student Reception—Kalamazoo
John M. Dunn
Feb 3, 2015

Good evening.

- I am enormously pleased to be here this evening to welcome you--students and families--to Western Michigan University.
- As families, you've been on a long journey together to prepare for this exciting point in your lives. I want to congratulate all of you on a job well done. You've laid the groundwork for success. You are here because you know that your great potential can be enhanced by making the right college choice. You have heard or read about the benefits of being a student at WMU--wonderful faculty, great instructional facilities and people who really care about our students in and out of the classroom.
- This is a university that is focused on student success. We want you to set goals and achieve them. Our entire university is devoted to helping our students live up to their potential by offering an environment that is learner centered, discovery driven and globally engaged.
- Let me brag a little bit. I want to know when I'm talking to people about this University that they're aware of some of the critical pieces of information about WMU. Here are a few things you should know.

-WMU is a research university--one of fewer than 200 in the nation to win that designation from the Carnegie Foundation. Why is that important to you? It means you'll be taught by professors who are making the latest discoveries and are at the top of their game.

-We have an Honors College that is one of the oldest collegiate honors programs in the country and the credentials of our honors college classes equal or surpass those at the nation's most elite private colleges.

-We have the right program for you. There are more than 230 academic programs from which to choose--141 at the undergraduate level.

-We have nationally and internationally known programs that range from aviation and engineering management to vocal jazz, geosciences and medieval studies. In fact, if there were a "Final Four" for academic programs, WMU would be in one of the top slots every year.

- I could go on and on, but what I want you to grasp is that all of the resources I just mentioned and many more, are just the tip of the iceberg. In addition to great academics, we have wonderful social, cultural and athletic opportunities to enjoy and our student life staff is the best around. That total experience that comes from being part of the WMU community will be the spark for your success.

Focused, hard-working students who come here ready for success find it! They discover the opportunity to take charge of their futures--to "Grab the Reins." We are a value added institution. Students with varying levels of ability and accomplishment feel at home at WMU. We help them add to their accomplishments and fulfill their potential. They leave with degrees and experiences that add great value to their future prospects—their careers, their families, their communities and beyond.

- One of the great joys of being a university president is seeing students like you study a question, explore all your options, and then make the wisest decision for you. Ask questions—not just tonight but whenever they occur--, and picture yourself a Bronco, living and studying here on our campus. If you vow to make academic achievement

your top priority in the semesters ahead, the WMU faculty, staff and I will do everything we can to take care of the rest. Your personal success can be found at Western Michigan University. Grab the reins!

- I'll be looking for you during orientation and Fall Welcome on our campus and I'll look forward to seeing you frequently after that. I'll also be front and center on the stage at Miller Auditorium to shake your hand when you receive your bachelor's degree a little more than four years from now.

- Thank you for your interest in Western Michigan University and thank you for being here this evening. Remember, ask lots of question. I know you'll be impressed by the answers you receive.