Western Michigan University: Forever Changed, Forever Changing

WMU President John M. Dunn
Change and constancy

Western State Normal School, Kalamazoo, Mich.

1904

2015
The West Michigan business community came together in 1903 to create a school that could:

- Be a change agent
- Boost economic development across West Michigan
- Solidify the region’s reputation as a place that cares about education

The school that became Western Michigan University was launched in Kalamazoo.

Two years later—1905—educational services to other cities in region began.
The year WMU changed forever

• From a comprehensive Carnegie-designated research university

• To one of only 90 universities in the nation with both a medical school and a law school
Stryker School of Medicine facts

• Partnership—Community, Borgess, Bronson and WMU

• Opened for fall 2014

• Inaugural class has 54 students selected from more than 3,700 applicants

• Students from 14 states and 33 undergraduate institutions, 7 from SW Mich.

• Just over 200 residents

• Team-based curriculum
Stryker School of Medicine’s W.E. Upjohn M.D. campus

- 350,000 square feet
- Seven floors, two still to be redeveloped
- Virtual hospital for medical care simulation
- Facilities for county medical examiner
Partnership and innovation
• Lansing
• Grand Rapids
• Auburn Hills
• Tampa Bay
The legal ed path ahead

• First-year law classes in Kalamazoo, fall 2015

• Accelerated program for undergrads—shaves a year off time to law degree

• More dual degree programs—three exist already

• Synergies in areas like programs for vets foster care, intellectual property, accountancy

• Use of facilities in new cities
More change in 2014

• National accolades for sustainability work

• Tobacco-free campus

• Enhanced profile and national rankings
So much more to tell…

• New multidisciplinary research initiatives

• Autism training and research

• Growing international enrollment

• A full BTR Park

• An internationally known aviation college that just turned 75
Nearly $300 million in new facilities
WMU in Grand Rapids since 1909

Beltline

Downtown
‘Go West’ to Grand Rapids

- GR Occupational Therapy graduate program is No. 36 in nation.

- MBA—begun in 1964 at behest of business community. Now more than 1,300 WMU MBAs in West Michigan.

- Counselor Education—only counseling degree in GR, provides complete psychological services through clinic in Grand Rapids.
Building West Michigan economy

• Support for both emerging and established industry sectors—from craft brewing and industrial design to life sciences, supply chain management and aerospace engineering

• 70,000 WMU alumni living and working in West Michigan—14,000 in Kent County alone
WMU graduates succeed

89%
Post Graduation
SUCCESS
Success of WMU degree holders within three months of graduation

89% Actively Engaged

- 63% Employed full time
- 15% Continuing education
- 1% Military service
- 11% Employed part time
- 10% Not actively engaged
Median starting salary is in $45,000 to $50,000 range
Success data for every WMU degree offered—more than 250—available at:

wmich.edu/career/planning/reports
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Questions?