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## Admitted Student Reception—Chicago

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Admitted Student Reception—Chicago area  
John M. Dunn  
Feb. 11, 2015

Good evening.

- I am enormously pleased to be here this evening to welcome you as potential members of the Western Michigan University family.
- First--thank you for braving the cold this evening. I take that as a sign that you are perfectly suited for a campus that last year at this time was named America's 8th snowiest college campus by AcuWeather.com. We always work to improve our many national rankings--so watch out!
- As families, you've been on a long journey together. Congratulations on a job well done. You've laid the groundwork for success in this young people. You are here because you know that great potential will be enhanced by a 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.
- Western Michigan University is focused on student success. We want you to excel-- to "Go West" and identify your own personal frontier. For Broncos, "West" is not a point on the compass, but a place inside each of us that is all about discovery. You'll be creating your own path, but you'll also be following a longstanding tradition of Chicagoland Broncos. There are more than 7,000 WMU alumni in the state of Illinois-- most of them right here in the Chicago area.

- Tonight is all about helping you understand what your next four years will be like as part of the Bronco family and a citizen of Kalamazoo--and we very much want you to be part of our community.

- Let me brag a little bit. I want you to be 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 just over 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 **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 have programs in the top slots every year.

- Just last week, we learned our famed Integrated Supply Management program has been ranked No. 2 in the nation by one professional organization. And yesterday, we learned a student in our famed School of Music will travel to Spain this summer as one of three finalists in an international trombone competition. The other two finalists are from the Julliard School of Music in NYC and the Rotterdam Conservatory in the Netherlands.

-I mentioned our many national rankings. Among my favorites is WMU being called a "Best Bang for the Buck" college by Washington Monthly magazine.

-When it comes to sustainability and environmental sensitivity, we own the higher ed category. Our recent national accolades on that front include the top collegiate awards in the nation from Second Nature and the U.S. Green Building Council.

-And finally, I want you to be aware of our most recent work in graduate and professional education. Last fall, the first class of eager students were welcomed into the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine. Also last fall, we formally affiliated with a private law school that is now the WMU Thomas Cooley Law School. It is one of the largest and most diverse law schools in the nation, and we're already working on an accelerated law degree for WMU students.

- I could go on and on about our academic resources. Making WMU your home also means having access to student life that is the best around. Every year, our students enjoy hundreds of music, theatre, dance and art events; countless guest speakers; free admission to campus sporting events and a surrounding community that is alive with shopping, dining, entertainment and recreational events. It's all part of the total WMU student experience.

- Being a Bronco includes football Saturdays in Waldo Stadium and weekend evenings as a member of the Lawson Lunatics who make up what's been called "the best student section in college hockey."

- Being a Bronco means being part of a diverse, healthy and sustainable community. We've built those qualities into every facet of campus life and those efforts include being a tobacco-free campus--outside and in.

- And for those of you who dream of becoming an entrepreneur, we have a student incubator--the Starting Gate--designed to help students launch their own businesses.
- One of the great joys of being a university president is seeing students like you make a great decision. I'll be looking for you during Welcome Week on our campus next fall and I'll look forward to seeing you on campus after that. I'll be 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.
- Again, thank you for being here this evening. Ask lots of questions. I know you'll be impressed by the answers you receive. So Grab the Reins and get ready to take charge of your future.

Let me close with a reminder that whatever the weather or time of year, it's always a great day to be a Bronco!

- And now, please welcome Dr. Christopher Tremblay, WMU associate vice provost for enrollment management--a Bronco who bleeds brown and gold, and the brains behind the wonderful new Bronco vehicle I hope you've seen cruising through traffic in your community. Dr. Tremblay.....