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Fulbright Scholar Reception

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Fulbright Scholar Reception
John M. Dunn
Feb. 20, 2015

Good afternoon.

- It is a pleasure to see you all here this afternoon. And thank you for choosing Western Michigan University as your university--the place to prepare you for a successful future.
- This academic year, we've been pleased to have **40** new and continuing Fulbright program participants on campus--representing **28** countries and engaged in graduate education in 17 fields of study. A total of 13 of you are working on doctoral degrees, 27 of you are working on master's degrees, and two of you are Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants.
- Last fall's entering class of 22 Fulbrights was our largest ever. That is a fact in which I take real pride. I know we have the programs you want, and we can offer you the experience on campus that will make you successful and inform your actions for years to come. And I know the value that you bring to our campus community. Your presence here helps ensure we have a diverse student body and that we truly embody our mission to be learner centered, discovery driven and globally engaged.
- For those of you I have not yet met, I do want to offer my personal welcome and let you know how much we value you. For all of you, I hope you'll share with me your experiences here and let me know how we can make student life for you easier and how we can ensure your experience is all you had hoped for when you made the decision to become a WMU Bronco.

- One of my fondest memories of seeing international students settle into this campus and take full advantage of student life came last year in Waldo Stadium. Michelle Metro-Roland helped arrange a group photo in the bleachers during a football game. I considered it an honor to be part of that celebration of student life.
- I was happy to see students enjoying that game and taking part in one of the iconic American college activities. We want you to enjoy every aspect of college life here. As a globally engaged university we strive to offer the level of excellence you want.
- Your presence and involvement in campus life is important to our domestic students as well. I speak from experience, since I was once a student from a small town in southern Illinois with literally no opportunity to connect with people from different cultures. My life and world view were transformed by the opportunity to attend a large university and live, work and become friends with people--people like you--from around the world.
- That experience has stayed with me and fuels my commitment to a diverse global campus today. I predict this experience will stay with you for decades to come as well.
- Thank you for being here and thank you for making this an even more vibrant international university. Please enjoy this opportunity to meet some of your fellow scholars this afternoon. I look forward to seeing you on campus and chatting with you in the coming months.
- Now let me close with a WMU tradition and remind you that it's always a great day to be a Bronco.