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## WMU Junior Spotlight

John M. Dunn

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WMU Junior Spotlight  
Dr. John M. Dunn  
3/21/15

- Good morning. I'm happy to see you here today and so pleased that you are considering Western Michigan University for your college education. You've already made a good decision by putting WMU on your shortlist. I know what you experience today will keep you interested.

- When you make that decisions, I hope you think carefully about this University. There are two critical pieces of information I want you to take home with you today.

**-First**, this is a place where you will have choices--great choices. We have 141 undergraduate majors--the second highest of any Michigan university. And those programs are among the best anywhere. If there were a tournament and a "Final Four" for degree programs in aviation, engineering management, vocal jazz, accountancy, speech pathology, supply chain managment, psychology, marketing, science education or dozens of other programs, we'd be in that final four every year.

**-Second**, this is a university that is set up to make you successful. You'll develop close relationships with faculty members who are at the top of their game. Because this is a research university, our faculty members are generating new knowledge. What you learn in the classroom will be taught by people who really knows their stuff--in fact, they probably did "write the book" on whatever topic they're teaching. And when you graduate, what you've learned here will translate into success. In fact, we've been carefully

tracking our graduate's success. For our most recent graduating class, 89 percent were actively engaged--in a job or grad school--within three months of graduation. For those working, the median salary was \$45,000 to \$50,000.

- As president of WMU, I'm in a unique position. I get to meet and interact with students at every point in the higher education process. On the front end, I get to meet students and families who are just beginning the college search process--students and families like you. There aren't many things I like more than introducing prospective students to this University.

- At the other end of the continuum, I get to see alumni who found success on our campus and have turned their experiences here into successful careers. I have the opportunity to meet and get to know our alumni all over the world. They are living successful lives and earning recognition in their chosen fields.

- This week while I'm watching ESPN or CNN, I will take immense pleasure in listening to 1996 alum LZ Granderson offering up his sports and political commentary.

- And I take enormous satisfaction that our alumni are playing critically important roles worldwide. Accountancy alumnus Dennis McNally, for instance is chairman of PriceWaterhouseCoopers International. Alumnus Jack Clifford founded the Food Network, and alumna Susan Anthony is an international opera sensation.

- I see students thinking about attending WMU and I meet our successful alumni. But by far, my greatest privilege is getting to know students during their time here

on campus and standing on the stage of Miller Auditorium to congratulate them when they earn their degrees.

- The night before last I presided over a convocation of 47 Presidential Scholars--graduating seniors who have earned the highest award we give to an undergraduate. Five or six years ago, those Presidential Scholars were doing just what you're doing today--checking us out. Now they're getting ready to graduate after college careers filled with incredible accomplishments.

- A political science major from Grand Rapids who has done volunteer work here to help high school students navigate the college financial aid process is headed to Harvard Law School.

- Our Presidential Scholar in management is taking her skill set to the Peace Corps before she launches a career as an entrepreneur. She's already been a finalist in the Michigan Innovation Student Competition.

- Another Presidential Scholar will take her knowledge of integrated supply management to Flowserve. Corp., where she has served as an intern over the past year. Her new job there will be as a buyer/production planner.

They all sat right where you're sitting not so long ago. Today, they're getting ready to leave us, and we can't wait to see what they do next.

- You can succeed here, and I look forward to seeing you walk across the Miller Auditorium stage sometime in the future--but not before we've had a chance to get to know you and find out just what you can accomplish.

- Enjoy your day here. Be sure to ask lots of questions. We'll make sure you get the answers that will help you succeed. Get ready to Go West and Grab the Reins.