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Damon Williams Introduction for Strategic Diversity

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Speaker Introduction for Strategic Diversity
Leadership at WMU lecture
Dr. John M. Dunn
3/26/15

Good morning. I'm pleased to see you all here this morning. You've made it a point--made a commitment--to be here today to hear from a longtime advocate for diversity and inclusion who will help us challenge ourselves to continue the progress we've made in recent years and to plan the next steps in our journey.

We're building on the results of a 2013 Campus Climate Survey and our 2014 action forums that grew out of that survey. And of course, an important part of our Strategic Plan is centered on equity and inclusion. The tactical action committee that is focused on that part of our plan is sponsoring today's series of workshops and lectures, with the financial support of our Kellogg Foundation Racial Healing Planning Grant.

In short, we have something of a perfect storm that brings us together today to hear from Dr. Damon Williams, senior vice president and the chief education and youth development officer for the Boys and Girls Club of America. Welcome Dr. Williams.

Damon Williams' role with his organization includes support for some of the targeted areas of our strategic plan--academic success, character and citizenship and healthy lifestyles. He has worked for more than 16 years in youth development and executive management, and has been in his current position since 2013. Before that, he was the associate vice chancellor, vice provost, chief diversity officer and faculty member in the department of educational leadership and policy analysis at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He's also served as assistant vice provost for

multicultural and international affairs at the University of Connecticut and as chief diversity officer for the American Council on Education.

He earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Miami University and a doctoral degree from the University of Michigan.

Please join me in welcoming to the Western Michigan University campus, Dr. Damon Williams.

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