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Golden Broncos Award Ceremony Welcome

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• Good afternoon, Broncos--Golden Broncos!

• It's a great day to be a Bronco every day, but today is our day to celebrate those of you super Broncos who have gone above and beyond to help build a Western Michigan University campus culture of scholarship, spirit, pride and community service. We're here to honor student leaders, advisors, and registered student organizations who not only were judged as the best in their categories this year, but also have set the standard for the students who will sit where you are now for years to come.

* You know there's a widely publicized new book out by New York Times columnist Frank Bruni. "Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be" is about college admissions and how important it is for a student to find a good fit in his or her undergraduate institution. He talks about really successful students who spend their undergrad years "tilling the four-year college experience for all it's worth."

• That's what you've been doing. You will leave WMU with leadership skills and abilities you never imagined simply because you decided to "grab the reins," dive into campus life and you decided to make a difference.

• Congratulations, and thank you for all that you do. Your accomplishments give me new opportunities to tell a wonderful story when people ask me what's happening on campus, or what kind of student chooses Western Michigan University. We're very, very proud of what you do and how you represent your fellow students and the entire campus community.
• The lessons you've learned as you've led your respective organizations will serve you throughout your careers--and more important, throughout your lives. Your ability to inspire others to work toward a common goal is a quality that will be treasured in the community where you choose to live. I take great pride in the fact that we are preparing students to become citizens who will make a difference. We want you to be citizens who value diversity and civility and who are equipped to critically evaluate all sides of an issue. You are already doing that. Today's awards are just our chance to recognize your abilities.

• It truly is a great day to be a Bronco.

Thank you.