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Medallion Spring Brunch for Graduating Seniors Welcome

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Medallion Spring Brunch for Graduating Seniors Welcome
John M. Dunn
April 12, 2015

- Good morning. Welcome to all of you. I'm so pleased that you are here for what has become one of my favorite spring events. I never tire of hearing about the success and future plans of our Medallion Scholars.
- I have come to know many of you well. We perhaps first met when you were prospective students or new freshmen. Your accomplishments as students and your plans for the future are nothing short of inspiring. Congratulations on your success so far. Please know you carry with you the best wishes of our entire campus community as you move on to the next steps in your lives and careers.
- Those next steps will be successful. I know that because you have had the opportunity to develop specific skills that will make you immediately valuable in graduate school or in the work force. Even more important, though, is the fact that you've also enjoyed the advantage of a broad-based liberal arts education that has helped you develop critical thinking and analytical skills as well as the ability to write and speak well and express your passions and goals with conviction. Those are the skills that will prepare you not just for your first job or next degree, but also for that opportunity decades into your futures. I can say with great certainty that you are destined to be wonderful professionals in your chosen fields and the kind of citizens we all want in our communities.
- There's a promise I like to share with graduating seniors, and it is simply this. We will continue to work every day in the years to come to continue to build the profile and enhance the already substantial reputation of your alma mater. Those efforts will make the value of the degree you've earned here grow with every passing year.

- But I'd like to expand that one-sided promise into a two-sided pact. I'm asking for a promise from you in return that I know will be an easy one for you to keep. As you move through your successful lives and careers, be sure to let everyone know that you are a proud alum of Western Michigan University. Your accomplishments will then serve to enhance the stature of WMU and increase not only the value of your own degree but the degrees of students who follow in your footsteps.

- For the parents here today, I want to reiterate what I know you heard from me the first time we met--perhaps at a Medallion Scholarship competition or during a campus visit. Thank you!

- You have done a great job first in preparing these young people for college, and then supporting them as they took full advantage of the opportunities along the way. You deserve now to sit back and enjoy the next few weeks as your student is honored, embraced and sent off with commencement festivities. Thank you for entrusting your student to us.

- And to our donors here today, thank you. We could not have done this without you. These students have a world of opportunity in front of them because you chose to invest in them. I know you, like all of us, will be watching these young people with keen interest, and I know you'll be feeling justifiable pride and pleasure in what they will accomplish.

- Thank you all, and enjoy yourselves here this morning.