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Air Zoo Innovation Hall of Fame Gala

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Air Zoo Innovation Hall of Fame Gala
Dr. John M. Dunn
4/18/15

- Good evening. Thank you, Troy, for that kind introduction, and my congratulations to you and your staff. This wonderful venue is being leveraged to the maximum. You truly do know how to throw a wonderful party that brings out the student in all of us.
- We are delighted to be this evening's presenting sponsor. This is our second year in that role and it's a good fit. Aviation is in our DNA at Western Michigan University. Last year, we celebrated 75 years of aviation education. Early next month, our Sky Broncos will be at Ohio State competing for the National Intercollegiate Flight Association Championship. Our team has won three national championships and has had top-five finishes 22 of the past 23 years. Put in basketball terms, that's a bit like making the NCAA Final Four every year.
- Aviation, the STEM disciplines and the fine arts are central to our University's academic core. You've had an opportunity to see just a few examples from our aviation and engineering colleges this evening. We have long agreed that the arts and creativity are critical elements to any good education and heartily applaud this evening's focus on STEAM--science, technology, engineering, the ARTS and mathematics. I'd also add the humanities and social sciences to those critical elements, but the acronym doesn't work out as well.
- Building a closer relationship between this museum and WMU was an idea whose time had come last year, and this event is the perfect opportunity to celebrate that partnership."

- On behalf of everyone at Western Michigan University, I'd like to offer our congratulations to tonight's inductees into the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame. It is an incredible honor for an individual who has made important contributions to the industry. I can tell you from experience how gratifying it was to have our College of Aviation inducted as an organization in 2008.
- And my personal and our University's collective congratulations go to each of this evening's teachers and students being honored for innovation and excellence in the STEAM disciplines. We are so proud of you and what you've accomplished. We'll watch your next steps with hometown pride.
- Thank you, and enjoy the celebration.

(well under three minutes)