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Transfer Student Orientation Welcome

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Dr. John M. Dunn
Transfer Orientation Welcome 2016

- Good morning. It's my job and my delight today to offer the official formal welcome to you as new members of the Bronco family. We're glad you're here. You made a great decision when you chose to 'Go West' and find your personal frontier at Western Michigan University.
- You are joining a growing number of transfer students from colleges and universities around the state and nation who have chosen to invest their next few years in becoming a member of the WMU community. We will work every day to honor your previous educational choices and help you leverage and develop the skills and background you bring to our campus in a way that will make you the successful professional you plan to be.
- You did your research well, and you may think you already know a lot about this University. Don't get too comfortable with that feeling. You'll be surprised at every turn. Every time I think I know it all about WMU, I learn something new or we launch an important new initiative.
- You are arriving on campus in the middle of what is a year of dramatic change and growth that will have a lasting impact on this University and the degree you ultimately take out into the professional world.

-Last September, we launched our private Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. Medical School with our partners Borgess Health and Bronson Healthcare.

-Last summer, we put the finishing touches on an affiliation with the Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

-Now that both of those changes are fully implemented, Western Michigan University is now one of just 83 public universities in the nation affiliated with both a law school and a medical school.

- Those developments and a number of other initiatives underway mean there will be enhanced academic opportunities and synergies that will affect our entire University.
- Be on the lookout for changes. Take advantage of everything this University offers and you'll truly understand what it means to be part of a university that is-- learner centered, discovery driven and globally engaged.
- Your studies come first, of course, and you've already figured that out. But being successful means being able to balance work and fun. It means trying new things, meeting new people and learning both inside and outside the classroom.
- I hope to see you here in Miller watching Broadway shows; across the plaza at the Richmond Center for Visual Arts or at the Dalton Center; in Bronco Stadium, Lawson Arena and Read Fieldhouse for athletic events; on the intramural fields having fun; and downtown enjoying yourselves in the Kalamazoo community.

Think about joining a student organization. Consider a study abroad program. Explore.

- I'm looking forward to getting to know you. When you see me on campus, don't be shy about introducing yourself. I try to greet and talk with as many students as I can, but I'd love it if you tap me on the shoulder as we're standing in line at Subway and just tell me who you are and how your student experience is going.
- We expect great things from you while you're a student here, and we know you'll accomplish great things when you're a proud Bronco alum. Believe me, that will happen sooner than you might think possible. Your next few years will be full ones and they will go by with exceptional speed. Before you know it, you'll be walking across the Miller Auditorium stage to receive your diploma and you—and I—will feel a great and well-deserved sense of accomplishment.

Welcome to WMU. Enjoy your activities today, and remember "Today, and every day, it's a great day to be a BRONCO."