



Western Michigan University
ScholarWorks at WMU

WMU President John Dunn

Office of the President

6-9-2015

Notes for MI-ACE Women's Leadership Panel 2015

John M. Dunn

Western Michigan University, john.dunn@wmich.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/dunn>



Part of the Higher Education Commons

WMU ScholarWorks Citation

Dunn, John M., "Notes for MI-ACE Women's Leadership Panel 2015" (2015). *WMU President John Dunn*. 715.

<https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/dunn/715>

This Speech is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of the President at ScholarWorks at WMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in WMU President John Dunn by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at WMU. For more information, please contact wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu.



President John M. Dunn
Notes for MI-ACE Women's Leadership Panel 2015
June 9, 2015 in East Lansing

The questions from the list below will be asked of panel members:

1. In your leadership role, what is your perception of the status of women in all fields, disciplines and roles on your campus and what can you do to influence "Moving the Needle" for women?

I feel pretty comfortable about the roles that women play on the WMU campus. There's a long tradition of female leadership at WMU, particularly in the academic areas, but we've made some enormous strides in other areas as well. Of eight WMU vice presidents, four are women (business, diversity and inclusion, student affairs, general counsel) and eight of the 15 members of the senior leadership team are women. I think those leadership roles are important because it gives talented women an opportunity to build their own staffs--many of whom are women, in turn.

2. What are your thoughts on strategies to raise national awareness and attention to achieving parity (50%) for women in the role of president by 2030?
3. Share some examples of initiatives you have supported or actions you have taken to positively impact access to opportunities and advancement through professional development for ALL women on your campus, including women from underrepresented groups-racial, ethnic, religious minorities, lesbian women, etc.

- *Membership in AAUW, which provided opportunities like \$start \$mart salary negotiation seminars that are open for participation from all WMU faculty, staff, and students*
- *Insisting on diverse hiring pools*
- *Continual attention to bringing students--undergraduate and graduate--into leadership and professional development opportunities.*

4. From your perspective, what are the most salient public policy issues in higher education both at the state and federal levels?

- *Access, public funding for public higher education, research funding*

5. What are your thoughts and what actions should be taken as it relates to heighten occurrences/tensions on our college campuses related to topics of sexual assault and race relations?

We've been proactive in examining our climate through a campus climate survey and examining all of our procedures to ensure we are not putting up barriers to making people feel comfortable in reporting. Some issues need to be addressed at national level. As a sector, not sure we really yet developed best practices for education, prevention and handling complaints. We can play that role for an issue that transcends higher ed and help other organizations like the military address what is really a cultural problem.

We've made real strides in raising the profile of the issues with initiatives like our award winning use of theatre to raise the issues and educate (Great Sexpectations)

6. How do you maintain access, opportunity and success for racially diverse students in light of the changing demographics and lack of funding for higher education?

- *Work everyday to maintain access*
- *Make diversity and inclusion part of strategic planning and the focus of a leadership position.*
- *View diversity in the broadest possible terms*
- *Seita Scholars, Foundation Scholars, international student recruitment*

7. What issues and concerns should we as a MI-ACE Women's Network place on our agenda to improve the status of women in higher education?