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Southwest Michigan Counselor Breakfast

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Southwest Michigan Counselor Breakfast
Dr. John M. Dunn
10/2/15

Good morning. Welcome to any newcomers to this great university. And welcome back to any Bronco alums among you. It's a great morning with lots to accomplish.

When I speak to any group, I always like to set the stage by making sure you know about the University I lead. For the many of you who know WMU well, I ask your indulgence for a moment. For those of you not as familiar as you might be, here's the Cliff Notes version--WMU in 100 words or less.

WMU is a Carnegie-designated research university with 24,000 students from 100 nations and nearly every state in the U.S. More than 20 percent of our students are at the graduate level, and our students find success at high rates in more than 250 degree programs in seven degree granting colleges. The newest additions to the Western Michigan family are two private professional schools, the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine (just blocks away) and the WMU Thomas M. Cooley Law School, with campuses across Michigan and in Florida.

I find it hard to resist sharing information like that with a roomful of people who counsel high school students. I'm delighted to have an opportunity to speak with you today.

We are partners in many ways and our missions dovetail beautifully. All of us in this room today are pursuing the same goals. We want to make the transition from high school to college easy, efficient, effective and empowering. We all want

students to find the right fit in a post-secondary environment. We want them to succeed. As educators, how could we want anything less for our students.

But we're also citizens of Michigan and because of that we'd like to see our students succeed right here in their home state. We want all their talent, skills, passion and innovative ideas to be put to work to make our state all that it can be. We want their success and ours to be "Made in Michigan."

We want all of that at a time of enormous challenge for education. Regardless of the level, our schools are short-staffed and we all spend too much time trying to figure out how to meet that dreaded mandate of "doing more with less. Colleges and universities are feeling the same stresses and for the same reasons. It's been a tough few years, but there's a central thought that drives us all to rise above the difficulties. For each of our students, this is their time--their time to explore, prepare and succeed. Their futures cannot and will not wait until budgets are better. We have and we will continue to focus every bit of our attention on making sure they have what they need to succeed.

Thank you for the job you do and the tremendous effort you put into your role each and every day. Our students and the futures ahead of them, are worth it!