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(Re-)Dedication of Heritage Hall 110-year Anniversary

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• Good afternoon. I'm John Dunn. I am not able to be there with you today, but I did want to take the opportunity to welcome you to our University--Kalamazoo's University--and to thank you for all that you do for our community and for Western Michigan University.

This building, this celebration and the community events that will take place here in the years to come are very tangible results of a 112-year old partnership. In 1903, the community rose to the occasion when it had the opportunity to become home to Western State Normal School. Kalamazoo's committed press and business leaders led the way to success. They competed against 27 other West Michigan communities to be selected as the home to a new educational treasure that was destined to become the great national research university it is today.

On this date, 110 years ago, those leaders gathered to celebrate their success and to dedicate this building on Prospect Hill. This facility ultimately became the symbol of the city's commitment to education and an icon representing the great university Kalamazoo gave birth to.

Today is about saying thank you to them. All of us are the beneficiaries of their wisdom and foresight. It is also our chance to say thank you to all of you who helped make the renovation of Heritage Hall and this rededication possible.

We wanted you to be the first to enjoy a formal event in the Heritage Hall ballroom. We want you to enjoy the event, enjoy the view and reflect on how far we've come and what we've built together.
Thank you for all that you do. Please plan to come back to Heritage Hall anytime you want to take a moment to reflect and be inspired by the ties that bind us all.

Thank you.

*Or talking points version*

Dedication of Heritage Hall  
Dr. John M. Dunn  
Nov. 23, 2015

• Welcome I'm John Dunn. Not with you today but wanted to find a way to welcome and thank you.

• Heritage Hall is a tangible symbol of a 112-year-old partnership between Kalamazoo and what ultimately became WMU

• We're celebrating their success again today and recommitting to that partnership.

• Thank you to all who made this renovation and rededication possible. Today's gathering is a modern-day re-enactment of the original dedication that happened 110 years ago today.

• Thank you. Enjoy the event and the view. Come back whenever you want a bit of inspiration. The view alone will do it for you.