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International Students Spring Welcome

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Welcome
Dr. John M. Dunn
International Students Spring '16 Welcome

• Good morning. It's my delight today to offer an 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 Western Michigan University. And this University is an even more vibrant place because of your presence on campus, in our classrooms and laboratories, in our residence halls and in the many campus organizations and activities that you will enjoy.

• 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 working in your home nation and using the lessons you learned here to build your career and develop a rich and personal and civic life. Believe me, that will happen sooner than you might think it possible at this point. Your next few years will be full ones and they will speed by with exceptional speed.

• We are honored that you chose this university as the place in which you could invest for your future. College choice is a decision of great consequence for all students. Your decision was more complex because you made the choice of both a nation and a university in which to pursue your goals. You are among nearly 1,900 students from 100 nations that have chosen Western Michigan University.

• Your presence on our campus adds to the vitality and international richness of our campus. There are three basic tenets around which our university revolves.
- We are learner centered. You all expect to be learners, of course. But all of us are focused on learning and continuing to learn as well. We expect, in fact, to learn from you.

- Second, this is a discovery-driven university. Your professors are on the cutting edge of their disciplines. What they will share with you is the latest, most recently discovered information, and they'll expect you to be focused on discovering new information as well.

And finally, this is a globally engaged university, a place that is committed to building a community that is diverse in the very broadest understanding of the term. You play a big part in making our campus a diverse one. You've already shown yourselves willing to expand your horizons. We'll encourage you to keep doing that.

- And your presence on campus will help expand horizons for many American students. My own passion for international education and global connections began many years ago. I was a student from a small town in Illinois. My world was opened and forever changed by the opportunity to attend a large university where I was able to live, study, work, play, eat, compete and talk regularly with students much like you who came from all over the globe. Those opportunities changed my life.

- Today, I am president of a university that has prided itself for decades on attracting students from around the globe. It is such a tradition here that we now see the children of international students from earlier decades arrive on campus to begin their own academic careers. *(Ask if there are any such legacy students in the*
group today?) Our institution has become the family tradition for savvy families in so many nations.

• Your studies come first, of course, and you already know about the high quality of our academic offerings. But being a successful person means being able to balance work and fun. It means trying new things, meeting new people and learning both inside and outside the classroom. Don't miss a chance to do any of that.

• I'm looking forward to getting to know you. When you see me on campus, don't be shy about introducing yourself and talking. 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 tell me who you are and how your student experience is going.

• As the next couple of years speed by--and believe me they will--I will watch your progress with pride. In due course, I'll be standing on the Miller Auditorium stage to shake your hand and present your diploma. It will be a moment in which we both will feel a great sense of accomplishment.

Welcome to WMU. Enjoy your introduction to WMU and the Kalamazoo community. And always remember it's a great day to be a Bronco.