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## Cesar Chavez Scholarship Dinner Welcome

John M. Dunn

Western Michigan University, [john.dunn@wmich.edu](mailto:john.dunn@wmich.edu)

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Cesar Chavez Scholarship Dinner Welcome  
John M. Dunn  
April 2, 2016

- Good evening. I'm John M. Dunn, president of Western Michigan University. It is my distinct pleasure to welcome all of you here this evening. This is the 10th time WMU has been privileged to act as host to the Cesar E. Chavez Scholarship Fundraising Dinner.
- This annual dinner, sponsored by the Southwest Michigan Cesar E. Chavez Committee, has three basic goals. First, it raises funds for the committee's need-based scholarship, which is available to Michigan college or college-bound students living in Allegan, Calhoun, Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties. Thank you very, very much for that!
- Second, it brings the Southwest Michigan community together to celebrate the life and work of Cesar Chavez and to do so around Cesar Chavez Day--the anniversary of his March 31 birth. Each year when we do this, we also celebrate the determination, perseverance and commitment Cesar Chavez always showed. As part of that celebration, this dinner is also a time to recognize people in the community who have made outstanding contributions.
- And finally, this annual dinner is a chance to hear the views of a keynote speaker who has made a life's work of the kind determination, commitment to equality and joyful spirit that Cesar Chavez practiced. Filling that role this evening will be **Cruz Reynoso [ray-NO-so]**, a civil rights leader, lawyer and former California Supreme Court judge. Judge Reynoso, we're so pleased you are here.

- I mentioned that this dinner serves as a scholarship fundraiser. This year, there are six students who have won the Chavez Scholarship. I want to congratulate all six--and extend a special Bronco welcome to those of you who have chosen to attend Western Michigan University. I understand a couple of you have not yet made your final college decision, but rest assured I have warm Bronco welcomes to spare when you make your choice. Let's talk. *(Three of the six are planning to attend WMU. Two of the remaining three are considering WMU and other schools.)*

I want to congratulate all of this evening's award winners--with a special acknowledgement to WMU senior Stefany Tule, an environmental science and sustainability studies major who makes us so proud. Congratulations as well to Guillermo (Gee AIR mo) Martinez and the InterCare Community Health Network, both of whom will be honored this evening.

- As always, I'm filled with pride to be part of a community and region that is determined to nurture and support the goals our young people have set. Please join me in a round of applause for the work done by the Southwest Michigan Cesar E. Chavez Committee in partnership with WMU's Division of Multicultural Affairs. They continue to do a wonderful job of keeping Chavez's vision and hopes for the future alive.
- Enjoy the evening.