DeNooyer New Car Dealers Meeting

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• Thank you for having me back. I know we had a chance to meet and talk a year or so ago, so my first order of business is to fill you in on what's been happening.

• It's a common misperception that summers are a quiet time at the University. I have not found that to be the case. And my staff is fond of saying that the last quiet time at WMU was sometime back in 1994.

• This week is a good example. Wednesday night, hundreds of Broncos gathered on campus for a bus trip to Detroit to watch the Tigers beat the Seattle Seahawk for the first ever WMU Night at Comerica Park. Altogether more than 3,500 Broncos help fill the stadium—the largest University night event at the stadium, surpassing U-M and MSU's designated evenings.

• Also this week:
  • we finished our new student orientation events for some 3,000 incoming freshmen.
  • we welcomed a new trustee named by Gov. Snyder--William Pickard

Looking ahead to the coming academic year, we will see:
  • The third class of medical students through the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine
  • The launch of first-year law classes here in Kalamazoo through WMU Cooley Law School.
  • The 100th student who will earn a degree through our Seita Scholars program that reaches out to former foster-care youth
  • An expansion of our College of Aviation facilities in Battle Creek
• An expansion of our offerings, including aviation, to new populations in the area of Tampa Bay and Punta Gorda
• An expansion of our Business Technology and Research Park onto the Colony Farm Orchard property
• The opening of the Kalamazoo Autism Center in September to allow our world renowned behavior analysts to provide services and train additional professionals to help children and families deal with autism.

• And this will be a bit of a different item to note, but the first of September, we will be opening an amazing Valley Dining Center on campus. It will include nine restaurant-style venues and a spectacular view onto Goldsworth Valley Pond. It is intended primarily for our students living on campus, of course, but we expect this to be a location members of the community will want to sample as well. Bottom line—you're invited.

You are all pretty savvy about WMU and the role it plays in Kalamazoo. Instead of me continuing to talk—and I can—I'd like to give you a chance to pose questions so you leave here today with the kind of information that is meaningful to you.

So please, ask me about anything—from athletics to zebra fish—I'm wide open.