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International Student Orientation Welcome

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International Student Orientation Welcome
John M. Dunn
August 29, 2016

- I am John Dunn, President of Western Michigan University. I am delighted to be here this morning to welcome you to our campus.
- You made a good decision when you selected Western Michigan University as the place to study. We have a long tradition of welcoming international students and providing to them the tools they need to succeed. Around the world today, you'll find WMU graduates who are leaders in their governments, prominent business people in their home nations and successful artists and writers. We have alumni who are ambassadors, journalists, engineers and scientists.
- We have alumni who are now parents of prospective college students who are looking for their own international experience. I chalk that up to the fact that they had wonderful student experiences during their years with us. I am confident you will have a similar experience as a student and that you will take those life-changing experiences back to your home nations and make them part of your personal world view.
- I know from working with international students in the past that the first few weeks here are the most challenging. You are getting to know both a new school and a new nation. There's lots to learn and lot of investigating to do. We want to help.
- We want to answer your questions and help you in any way we can. You also have a wonderful International Student Services staff at the Haenicke Institute. They will be your first point of reference in the coming months and years. And by the way, I like to point out to new international students that the Haenicke Institute is named

for former WMU President Diether Haenicke, a native of Germany who exemplifies the term "international scholar."

- You are joining a university community with students and faculty members who come from more than 100 countries. You bring with you the rich traditions of your home nations, your communities and your families. You bring to our campus an incredible sense of vitality. You may come to us to expand your own horizons, but your presence here expands the world for many of our students. You'll find them eager to get to know you.
- Our University is passionate about the importance of students having the opportunity to talk, live, study and spend time with people from diverse backgrounds. The ability to do that is the greatest gift we give our students. We hope to welcome even more international students here to study, and we want even more of our domestic students to travel and study in your homelands.
- I'm looking forward to getting to know you. When you see me on campus, please stop me, introduce yourself and let me know how things are going for you. I want you to enjoy every aspect of your experience at here and to consider Western Michigan University as your new home.

In my opinion, there's no better way to welcome you today and begin your orientation to Western Michigan University than to share with you my favorite of all sayings: "It's always a great day to be a Bronco!"