



Western Michigan University
ScholarWorks at WMU

WMU President John Dunn

Office of the President

9-1-2016

Ribbon Cutting for the Valley Dining Center

John M. Dunn

Western Michigan University, john.dunn@wmich.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/dunn>



Part of the Higher Education Commons

WMU ScholarWorks Citation

Dunn, John M., "Ribbon Cutting for the Valley Dining Center" (2016). *WMU President John Dunn*. 634.
<https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/dunn/634>

This Speech is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of the President at ScholarWorks at WMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in WMU President John Dunn by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at WMU. For more information, please contact wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu.



Bullet points for Sept. 1, 2016
Ribbon Cutting for the Valley Dining Center
President John M. Dunn

- Thank you all so much for being here today to celebrate the completion of this amazing building. It doesn't seem possible that just 14 months ago we were all assembled for the groundbreaking of what we knew would be a game-changer for this University and for our students.

- Game-changer, cutting-edge facility, 'Wow' factor and Home Run--we've used all of these terms to describe what we were out to accomplish, and every one of those descriptors has proven accurate by this marvelous dining center we're here to formally open. There's an old saying about the proof being in the pudding. Well, this is clearly the most spectacular pudding we could have hoped for. We perfected the recipe.

- I offer thanks and congratulations to our partners in this project SmithGroup JJR of Detroit and the Christman Co. What you've created is a facility that beautifully fits the setting and provides our student with a warm and welcoming environment--a place that will become their family dining room here on campus.

- The input from the campus community and our staff's involvement in the small and large decisions made every day during the construction process will pay dividends for decades to come. That process has already begun. To every person involved in the planning and implementation--and there are dozens of you--I offer my thanks. You have the gratitude of your colleagues campuswide.

- Our students will certainly be grateful as well. They may not realize the tens of thousands of hours that went into this effort or know all the many people who worked so hard to make this a success, but they'll recognize the care and commitment to their well-

being that this facility represents. Students visiting the Valley Dining Center will find an outstanding variety of fresh and wholesome food as well as a superb place to gather to study and interact. It is destined to be at the heart of what students remember of their college days at WMU.

- Dining is not just about eating. We all know and need to continually honor the fact that the dining experience is central to who and what we are as humans--and what we can become. Two years ago, food advocate Michael Pollan visited our campus to speak as part of our Healing Art Speaker Series sponsored by the Center for the Humanities. Pollan is widely known for his views about what and how we eat. He talks continuously about the importance of the meals enjoyed in small or large groups, and says:

"The shared meal elevates eating from a mechanical process of fueling the body to a ritual of family and community, from the mere animal biology to an act of culture."

-Michael Pollan

He's right. Here's to the coming decades of celebration of the Bronco culture. This will a spot in which our students, our faculty and staff, campus visitors and members of the community will have a chance to share the dining ritual and elevate the culture.

Thank you for being here to share the excitement.