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WMU Foundation 40th Anniversary Celebration

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WMU Foundation 40th Anniversary Celebration

Dr. John M. Dunn

Event: 9-24-2016

- Good evening. Let me start by saying thank you for being part of this celebration to mark 40 years of focused and successful private support for the goals of Western Michigan University. Over the past four decades, the WMU Foundation has promoted, encouraged and managed private gifts and ensured that those gifts grow and are used to maximum advantage.
- I would love to be there with you this evening, but I am on my way home from Thailand following a trip to promote the international engagement that is so important to WMU's future. Our global engagement is one important quality that differentiates our University and keeps it moving forward. We work every day to optimize student opportunity and make this the caliber of international research university that you can proudly support.
- Your support, your generosity and your willingness to offer advice and counsel in managing private resources to serve the public good are at the heart of tonight's celebration. Today, the Western Michigan University endowment is the third largest among Michigan's 15 public universities. Those private funds have allowed us to grow physically, increase our strength academically and expand our economic impact.
- But most important, those funds are providing the private scholarship support that continues to make Western Michigan University a model for providing access and promoting the upward mobility of deserving students from across the demographic spectrum. On behalf of those students--past, present and those still to enroll--I want to offer my personal note of gratitude.

- This evening as you celebrate the success of the past 40 years, please take a moment to reflect on the vision of those in the private sector and in University leadership positions who in 1976, looked ahead and saw both the need and opportunity that the WMU Foundation continues to serve. We should be forever grateful to them.

- Let us use today to renew our commitment to their vision. This is a great University with a bright future. I am confident that with your continued leadership and stewardship, in partnership with the Board of Trustees and University administration, Western Michigan University will positively impact our students, our community, our state, our nation and beyond for generations to come.

- Enjoy the evening. I am there with you in spirit and I urge you to remember that today, as always, it is a great day to be a Bronco.