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# College of Education and Human Development 60th Anniversary Welcome

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College of Education and Human Development  
60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Welcome  
Dr. John M. Dunn  
Oct. 5, 2016

- Good evening, welcome and Happy Anniversary. I kind of like noting a major event in the long history of Western Michigan University that occurred when I was just 11 years old.
- It's the 60th anniversary of the existence of a College of Education at WMU, but in truth, the history of this college goes back to 1903 and the beginning of this University as Western State Normal School--Michigan's final teachers' college. It is no exaggeration to say that education and human development are at the very heart of this institution's past, present and future.
- Education and its related disciplines shaped the first 50 years of WMU's existence, and clearly earned the spot solidified in 1956 and then celebrated in 1957 when this became Western Michigan University and the University seal was first drawn--with five stars to symbolize the main academic units in place. Education, of course, was one of those five.
- When I look in the WMU centennial history, I need go no further than page 21 to see an image of our first graduating class in 1905--seven proud young teachers headed off to classrooms around the state. Today, this college awards an average of 1,240 degrees each year. And the faces of the

young people I see walking across that Miller Auditorium stage look every bit as proud and happy as those first graduates--the Class of 1905.

In fact, I understand this college accounts for about 30 percent of all WMU graduates. And more than 68,000 living alumni call this college their WMU home.

- Some of our best known alumni have been among the number of graduates of this college--Homer Stryker; Merze Tate; Dennis Archer; Sesame Street's Miss Susan, aka Loretta Long; and Oprah Winfrey's favorite guest of all time, Terrerai Trent--all of them are alumni of the programs that make up this college. Later in this evening's program, you'll see the names and accomplishments of even more standout alumni of this college.

- Great student preparation, great research and great alumni--those are the things we're celebrating tonight. Thank you for inviting me to be part of your celebration. I cherish and am incredibly proud to hold a faculty appointment in this college, and that makes the evening all the more special.

- This is, indeed, a great day to be a Bronco!

- Thank you.