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Office of Diversity and Inclusion Breakfast

John M. Dunn
Western Michigan University, john.dunn@wmich.edu

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• Good morning. It's always great to see you all and spend some time reflecting on the tremendous contributions the Office of Diversity and Inclusion makes to Western Michigan University.

• This office serves the campus as a whole and specifically addresses the needs of our students who have helped to build WMU’s diverse campus. Those numbers have quietly and steadily climbed over the past few years, thanks to your efforts and the reputation we have built for being a welcoming and inclusive campus.

• Minority student enrollment this year continued a trend of previous years, growing by 2 percent compared to last fall's total. Over the past five years, total minority enrollment has increased by nearly 11 percent, with increases in all categories except native Hawaiian/Pacific islanders. Total minority enrollment this fall stands at 5,147—22 percent of total enrollment.

• Thank you as well for your ongoing support for LBGT students and for events and activities you coordinate year-round that keep building WMU into what we all want it to be. I know we talk about those events and initiatives on a regular basis. What we perhaps don't mention often enough is the leadership role ODI plays in steadily building our community outreach. You have long-nurtured those community connections, and your efforts have stepped up significantly in recent years through your work with Kalamazoo Promise families and students. I hope you share my pride in shaping the educational experience and future careers of the youth of our own hometown. Your individual contributions have added immensely to the Promise success record at Western Michigan University.
• And as your role in community outreach and student support has grown, you each have demonstrated your flexibility and commitment to our institutional mission and vision by being willing to transfer the long-established, pre-college programs you have managed so well to Admissions, moving ODI into a new era, and preparing your important unit to make new and enhanced contributions to the University.

• Thank you for everything you do every day. You make it possible for me to say: "It's a great day to be a Bronco."