



Western Michigan University  
ScholarWorks at WMU

---

WMU President John Dunn

Office of the President

---

11-18-2013

## Medallion Induction Reception

John M. Dunn

Western Michigan University, [john.dunn@wmich.edu](mailto: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., "Medallion Induction Reception" (2013). *WMU President John Dunn*. 617.

<https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/dunn/617>

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](mailto:wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu).



## Medallion Induction Reception

John M. Dunn

Nov. 18, 2013

- Good afternoon, Broncos. Thank you for being here. This weekend is an exciting time to be on campus, and this is truly an event designed to warm the heart of any University president--generous donors, incredibly bright and focused students and doting parents--what's not to love.

- To our donors, thank you for making the Medallion Scholarships possible. You have chosen to provide opportunity for a truly remarkable group of young people. For more than 30 years, these wonderful scholarships have, with your help, attracted the very brightest students in Michigan and beyond. Since the scholarship's inception in 1984, some 500 students, including the 20 new 2016 Medallion Scholars, have won this award.

- To our new Medallion Scholars, let me congratulate you on making a wonderful decision. When you chose Western Michigan University you made the decision to come to a university that offers all the resources of the national research institution it is. You also became a member of a University community committed to ensuring your success. That is what WMU is all about. It is a place where you are empowered to take charge of your future--to Strike Gold.

- Previous recipients have gone on to accomplish great things, and we expect nothing less from our newest award winners. Just to give you an idea of some of those "great things" previous WMU Medallion Scholars are doing, let me note just a few examples of the kind of accomplish-ments of those who were once part of an induction ceremony just like this.

- **Stephen John** of Portage was awarded the Medallion Scholarship in 2012. He graduated in 2015 and is now in medical school (U-M). But even before he graduated, he and another student were celebrated internationally as the young inventors who developed a low-cost respiratory device designed to save the lives of premature infants in developing nations. Stephen and his co-inventor won five national prizes for their work, including one awarded by the U.S. Patent Office and another by MIT.

- **John J. Bursch**, a 1994 alumnus and Medallion Scholar went on to become the Michigan Solicitor General, supervising Michigan case hearings at the U.S. Supreme Court. He now leads his own law firm and is a litigator with a thriving appellate and Supreme Court Practice.

- And **Dr. Marc Humphrey**, a 1997 alumnus and Medallion Scholar, earned his Ph.D. at Harvard, and is a team leader with the International Atomic Energy Agency. For fun, he returns to campus occasionally to collaborate with one of his former faculty mentors on such books as "The Idiot's Guide to Quantum Physics" and the sequel, "Idiot's Guide to Physics."

- For the parents here today, let me just say thank you for entrusting your student's next few years to us. You've obviously done a spectacular job over the past 18 years. We hold you in great esteem and pledge to make the next four years everything your students have dreamed of and everything you have worked so hard together to achieve.

- For 10 years now, I have had the privilege of leading Western Michigan University--a university I have known of and admired all of my professional life. Today, everywhere I go, I share a few critical pieces of information about this University that I think everyone should know.

- One of the things I always like to talk about is our Lee Honors College, which is one of the oldest and most prestigious collegiate honors programs in the nation. I always take enormous pleasure in noting that the credentials for our entering honors college class meet or surpass the credentials of students entering the most elite public and private colleges in the nation. And I always note the kind of welcoming and supportive academic environment we have built to make sure our students find success as students and prosper in the future as alumni. Students, we want you to find success in the very broadest sense of the word. We want you to find professional success, of course, but we want you to explore, discover and develop all the personal skills as well that will make every part of your lives happy and successful.

- 2016 Medallions, you are part of this year's class. Thank you for giving me a fresh round of statistics to share. Even more important, thank you for entrusting us with your educational goals, personal development dreams and future success. Welcome to WMU. We're proud to be your university. Enjoy your years here as a member of our University family, and always remember, it's a Great Day to be a Bronco!

Thank you.