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MLK GOLD Scholarship Competition Welcome

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MLK GOLD Scholarship Competition Welcome
John M. Dunn
Feb. 18, 2017

Good morning. Welcome to Western Michigan University and to Kalamazoo. For some of you, let me also welcome you to Michigan.

Students, I wish you the best of luck as you tackle today's MLK GOLD Scholarship Competition.

Parents and families, I want to congratulate you and thank you for the critical role you played in bringing your students to this point in their lives. These young people competing today are bright, accomplished and full of potential. In short, I would love to see every one of them here with us on campus this fall.

The MLK GOLD Competition

But today is, indeed, a competition. Through the activities planned today, we'll be on the lookout for students with the character, curiosity, initiative and ability to take full advantage of the opportunities that Western Michigan University presents.

As a result of today's competition, we expect about 50 of you to be selected for a \$16,000 scholarship and the opportunity to take a leadership role and contribute to the diversity of our campus. We'll look forward to being part of your academic, social and professional development support system.

The MLK name on the scholarship has special significance at WMU. We have a proud history and have long celebrated Dr. King's visit to our campus for a major address delivered on Dec. 18, 1963. Nearly four years ago, we marked the 50th anniversary of that significant historical milestone. That anniversary gave us a

chance to reflect anew on his messages. It also gave us an opportunity to reaffirm our university's long commitment to ensure that every individual is able to reach his or her full potential. It's part of who we are.

What WMU offers

You'll make some discoveries as you learn more about WMU today--and those discoveries will revolve around the people you meet as you become more familiar with our campus. We have some of the best instructional facilities you'll find anywhere, but it is the quality of the people who make up this university that makes all the difference in our students' lives. Those personal connections you make here will be critical.

Students, this is a place where you will discover things you might not yet know you're searching for. This is a place where faculty and staff alike are focused on what it will take to help you succeed. They will help you take control of your own academic success and you'll find you can literally "Strike Gold" as you find your personal and professional path to success.

Closing

Finally, let me urge you to take a careful look at our home community while you're here today. This is a wonderful college town with people who go out of their way to make students an important part of the social fabric.

Enjoy your day today. I hope you feel the kind of welcome and focus on success we want all of our students and their families to feel. Regardless of today's outcome, we want you to be part of our campus community.

Finally, I want to conclude with something I say just about every day: “It’s a great day to be a Bronco!” I hope you decide to become one.

Thank you.