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Trustee Oath of Office of Lynn Chen-Zhang

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Trustee Oath of Office
of Lynn Chen-Zhang
March 14, 2017
Welcome by John M. Dunn

- Welcome trustees, colleagues and guests. Thank you for being with us to welcome Lynn Chen-Zhang to the Western Michigan University Board of Trustees. She has been appointed by Gov. Snyder to fill a term expiring at the end of 2018.

- Lynn, I want you to know how pleased we all are at the prospect of working with you over the coming months and years. You already enjoy a strong relationship with the University, and we all look forward to seeing that relationship take on a new dimension--become even stronger and more meaningful.

- Once you are sworn in, we plan to tap your skills and leadership acumen immediately. The entire board will welcome you to the table tomorrow morning so that you can add your insights as the board tackles the critical issues that will set the University's direction for long into the future.

- Also with us today is 8th District Court Judge Christopher T. Haenicke, who will administer the oath of office to our new trustee. Judge Haenicke's name is a well-known and honored name here at WMU, and we are always delighted when he can spend time with us and add his professional presence to important celebrations such as this.

- Board Chair Jeffrey Rinvelt will now make a few comments and then introduce three important members of our campus community who, in turn, will make brief comments and lead us into the formal part of this ceremony. We're all eager to have our new trustee officially on board and have her begin her work.

- Trustee Rinvelt.

Board Chair Jeffrey Rinvelt
Trustee Oath of Office Ceremony
3/14/17

Good Afternoon.

Thank you all for being here and for joining us to officially welcome our new colleague, Lynn Zhang, who has been appointed to become a member of the Western Michigan University Board of Trustees.

This is my first opportunity as board chair to welcome a new colleague to our fold. and I'm discovering what a pleasure it is to do so. Lynn, with your help, our board will continue to move our University forward to new levels of growth, strength and recognition.

It was just two years ago that I was appointed and came here with great anticipation to a similar ceremony--in this room and surrounded by my family and many of the same people who are here today, Lynn, to welcome you.

It has been a privilege, an intense learning opportunity and a tremendously rewarding experience to be a WMU trustee. This University played a pivotal role in my life. It has been both a challenge and a joy to be able to put my insights and experience to work on behalf of the institution that enabled me to become the professional I am today. My pleasure at being able to have that kind of an impact on WMU has been multiplied by the opportunity to serve and become friends with a talented group of Broncos--the membership of this University's governing board.

I wish you the same quality of experience I have enjoyed. With your support and guidance, our impact as a board will become even greater as we extend WMU's reach to an ever-growing number of communities around the state, nation and world.

This is a critical transitional period in the life of the University, making this an even more important moment to play a hands-on role in steering WMU's course for

the coming decades. In 114 years, the University has had only eight presidents, and as a community, we're about to choose a ninth. We're so glad you will be able to bring your insights and good judgement to that important task.

Welcome, Lynn. And now, campus leaders representing other entities in shared governance at WMU are here to welcome you as well. Dr. C. Dennis Simpson, immediate past president of the Faculty Senate will extend a welcome on behalf of that organization next.

(Suzan speaks and hands off to Thye, Fischman, President of WSA, and Thye hands off to Amaury Pineda, vice president of GSA. Then Jeff Rinvelt returns to the podium to introduce Chris Haenicke.)

Now U.S. District Court Judge Christopher T. Haenicke of Kalamazoo will administer the oath of office to our new colleagues. Once she is sworn in, I will ask Trustee Zhang to share a few thoughts with us.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the honorable Christopher T. Haenicke judge of the U.S. District Court.

(Swearing in takes place, new trustee makes remarks. Dunn returns to thank everyone for coming and invites them to stay and chat with the new trustee.)