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Cesar Chavez Scholarship Dinner Welcome

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Cesar Chavez Scholarship Dinner Welcome
Dr. John M. Dunn
3/30/2017

- Welcome. Thank you for asking me to join you. I'm happy we are all together this afternoon to continue what has become a decade-long tradition at WMU--celebrating the accomplishments of Cesar Chavez and reminding our community just how important the issues that drove him are. Today's celebration, appropriately, has become a county-wide event.

- When we stop to remember Cesar Chavez for his more than 30 years of nonviolent struggle to improve civil rights and working conditions for farm laborers, we are reaffirming the importance of the work he and his colleagues did in creating United Farm Workers--the nation's first successful farm workers union.

Joining you today will be **Michael Reyes** [RAY-yes] social justice advocate, motivational speaker, and poet from Saginaw, Mich. Michael relates personally to the challenges of farm workers and is, himself, the grandson of migrant workers. He is strongly committed to many of the same principles that motivated Chavez and his colleagues decades ago.

While Michael Reyes may draw from the very same roots and inspiration as Cesar Chavez, his message has a vibrant, contemporary flair, one that I trust will resonate well with this lively and pride-filled audience today...all 700 of you!

Thank you all for supporting the important legacy of Cesar Chavez and for allowing Western Michigan University to be the destination of today's event. We are proud to welcome you all. Come back to visit us anytime.