



Western Michigan University
ScholarWorks at WMU

WMU President John Dunn

Office of the President

4-1-2017

Cesar Chavez Scholarship Dinner Welcome

John M. Dunn

Western Michigan University, 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., "Cesar Chavez Scholarship Dinner Welcome" (2017). *WMU President John Dunn*. 838.
<https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/dunn/838>

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.



Cesar Chavez Scholarship Dinner Welcome
John M. Dunn
April 1, 2017

- Good evening. I'm John M. Dunn, president of Western Michigan University. It is my distinct pleasure to welcome all of you here this evening. This is the 11th time WMU has been privileged to act as host to the Cesar E. Chavez Scholarship Fundraising Dinner.

- This annual dinner, sponsored by the Southwest Michigan Cesar E. Chavez Committee, has three basic goals. First, it raises funds for the committee's need-based scholarship, which is available to Michigan college or college-bound students living in Allegan, Calhoun, Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties.

- Second, it brings the Southwest Michigan community together to celebrate the life and work of Cesar Chavez and to do so around Cesar Chavez Day--the anniversary of his March 31 birth. Each year when we do this, we also celebrate the determination, perseverance and commitment Cesar Chavez always showed in his work. As part of that celebration, this dinner is also a time to recognize people in the community who have made outstanding contributions.

- And finally, this annual dinner is a chance to hear the views of a keynote speaker who has made a life's work of the kind of determination, commitment to equality and joyful spirit to our community.

- I mentioned that this dinner serves as a scholarship fundraiser. This year, there are seven students who have won the Chavez Scholarship this year, and they represent Bangor, Bloomingdale and Hartford high schools. I want to congratulate all seven--and extend a special Bronco welcome to the four of you who have chosen to attend

Western Michigan University. And for the three of you who have chosen another path, I can only say, "Let's talk." I have warm Bronco welcomes to spare, but whatever school you choose to attend will be fortunate to have you. *(Three of the seven are planning to attend MSU.)*

I want to congratulate this evening's award winners--with a special acknowledgement to WMU senior Richard Wyatt DeBoer, a criminal justice major from Lawton who is receiving a Future Leaders Award. We are so proud of him. Congratulations as well to the Van Buren Intermediate School District and Dr. Fanny Tabares [Tah-BAR-es], who both will be receiving awards this evening. And I must say how honored and humbled I am to be included among this group this evening.

- As always, I'm filled with pride to be part of a community and region that is determined to nurture and support the goals our young people have set. Please join me in a round of applause for the work done by the Southwest Michigan Cesar E. Chavez Committee in partnership with WMU's Division of Multicultural Affairs. They continue to do a wonderful job of keeping Chavez's vision and hopes for the future alive.

- Enjoy the evening.

(3 minutes)