4-18-2017

APA Recognition Reception

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Good afternoon. Thank you for inviting me to be here to celebrate the outstanding service and extraordinary job performance of the honorees being honored today. This is a wonderful annual event and one I like to attend whenever possible. It is an occasion that reminds us all anew of the capacity we all have to serve and make this a place that is truly learner centered, discovery driven and globally engaged.

You're honoring an outstanding professional and an outstanding new professional as well as someone who has distinguished him or herself through outstanding service to this organization. The latter award bears the name Tony Griffin, WMUK news director who served as this organization's president during a pivotal period. Your continued efforts to honor his memory speak volumes about the loyal and nurturing nature of this Administrative Professional Association.

We are almost at the end of another successful academic year, and next week, some 2,600 students will walk across the Miller Auditorium stage to realize their ultimate success as students. Your work each and every day makes that possible, and makes this a more collegial place and a better learning environment for all of our students. Thank you for all you do.
• The fine work of the honorees is the purpose for our gathering. I do thank each of them for setting the bar high and being the role models they are. But I'd also like to express my sincere gratitude—10 years of gratitude—to all of you.

Every one of you, from your posts throughout the campus, encourage our students, pave theirs path to grow personally and to find Gold in their academic careers. You work through the challenges and inspire co-workers to do the same. Day by day, your creativity, foresight and countless efficiencies have lifted the stature and spirit of Western Michigan University to be one that truly serves students and our community state and nation.

Thank you.