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## Graduate College Awards Ceremony Welcome

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Graduate College Awards Ceremony  
Welcome by President John M. Dunn  
April 27, 2017

- Good evening, and congratulations to all of you here being honored for your scholarship, research and creative work. Congratulations as well to those of you who we'll be seeing at Miller Auditorium Saturday as you accept those well-earned degrees.

- You know this morning during our Board of Trustees meeting, I was reminded just how far our Graduate College and our marvelous graduate programs have come in the past decade. Today, the trustees and those of us meeting with them heard from the leadership of WMU's highly regarded Graduate Student Association, and we all listened to Faculty Senate president Suzan Ayers recount faculty/student collaboration on recent initiatives like our eleventh annual Research and Creative Activities Poster and Performance Day that drew some 200 people. We also heard from a Presidential Scholar who was thrilled and honored to be able to continue her education here as a master's student.

- Our graduate college is larger--more students and more programs--stronger because of outstanding leadership, and recognized more widely than ever, with national and international reputations for many of our programs. Our facilities are second to none, and our graduates--you--leave here ready to compete with anyone, anywhere and at anytime.

- Events like this evening's are simply a chance to sit back and celebrate how far we've all come together as a University and as individual scholars. It's a recognition of all that we do right in graduate education--and that's a lot. Thank

you for all you've done already and for the professional accomplishments you'll undertake in the future. We're proud of you now and we'll be looking forward to the chance to watch you with pride for long into the future.

It is now and will always be a great day to be a Bronco!