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Heritage Hall LEED Platinum Event

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• Good afternoon. What a great piece of news to celebrate. We're standing here together in Kalamazoo's first LEED Platinum facility.

• It is wonderful having Cheri Homan back on campus to join us. She was here with us not too long ago when we celebrated our Sangren Hall LEED-Gold certification. This means we've been successful once more in achieving our goal of making sure our new facilities meet and exceed the LEED Certification standards. We're delighted that the West Michigan chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council is ready to celebrate with us.

• This celebration is especially sweet. We set out to honor our campus and community's history and showcase how that history can be leveraged with the use of technology to build an energy efficient future. This community empowered us more than 100 years ago to be innovative and provide a cutting-edge learning environment and community resources. Just a quick look around you will illustrate how well we succeeded in doing that an acknowledgement that we've accomplished our sustainability goal as well. I'm proud of our business and facilities teams (Jan and Pete) who worked with historic preservation specialists and outstanding design and construction professionals from Tower Pinkster, Christman Co. and Hopkins Burns to make our goals become realities.

• This is important for many reasons. We invest our time, resources and creativity into the LEED process and onto making these buildings energy efficient and sustainable because it's the right thing to do. It is consistent with a commitment we
first spelled out a decade ago. Buildings like this allow us to leverage and make maximum use of the resources entrusted to us by our students and their families and by the state of Michigan. Doing so is good for the bottom line and it allows us to model for our students the impact of sustainability that has to be the path to the future.

We're certainly not done yet. Today, though, we're pausing to reflect on what's been done and to say thank you to all on our campus and in our community who have helped along the way. My message to all gathered here today is "Thank You!" You've made this another great day to be a Bronco.