



Western Michigan University
ScholarWorks at WMU

WMU President John Dunn

Office of the President

6-30-2017

Health Careers Connection Luncheon

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., "Health Careers Connection Luncheon" (2017). *WMU President John Dunn*. 810.
<https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/dunn/810>

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.



Health Careers Connection Luncheon
President John M. Dunn
June 30, 2017

- Good afternoon. It's really my honor and privilege to be here with you today to celebrate the success of students who are taking the first steps toward their health care career goals.
- First and foremost, this is about our incoming freshman who took part in this new initiative. Students, you are pioneers--the first cohort in our new Health Career Connections program. We are delighted at the progress and success you've demonstrated over the past few weeks. You've earned your first six WMU credits, gotten the hang of life in the residence halls and had the opportunity to get a closer look at the health care professions you're considering.
- You've overcome challenges to be here, and we're counting on you continuing to do that. Along your collegiate path, there will be people ready and eager to reach out and help you make it over those hurdles. Many in this room are included in that group who want to see you to succeed. Dean Washington, for instance, began her own outstanding career in a program very much like this one. I know she's told you that, and I know her commitment to your success is genuine.
- Every one of us here celebrating with you today is here because someone reached out to help us at some critical point when we were preparing for our professional lives. It may have been a parent or another relative, friend, high school teacher, faculty member or professional mentor. We're here because they cared and made a difference in our lives. I can trace my own success directly back to that same kind

of help, and I remain forever grateful--and obligated to do the same for young people I encounter.

- Oprah Winfrey put it this way:

"A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself."

- Look around the room today, I guarantee there are people here who would be happy to play a role in making sure you are successful. The only thing any of us would ask in return is that someday when you are successful--and that day will come--you should be ready to play the same role for a young person on the same kind of journey.

- Families, you must be proud of your students. They hold great potential, and this university and your home communities are counting on them to boost the capacity of health care facilities that serve your communities. Thank you for entrusting your students' professional development to our care. You and they are now part of the Bronco family. We're in this together, and your involvement is critically important.

- Officials from the state of Michigan and representatives from all those donors and health care organizations that made the Health Care Connections program possible this year. Thank you. Because of your willingness to step up and support this program, we were able to provide full scholarships for tuition and housing for the 12 talented young people who are part of this initial class. You made this work, and have given us a model to pursue into the future. There are 19 Southwest Michigan counties in the area served by our Western Regional Area Health Education Center in our College of Health and Human Services. I'd say that gives

us plenty of room for growth and plenty of young people with the potential to make our region's health care organizations the very best in providing access to quality health care from a diverse and well-trained work force.

- We're just getting started, and will look forward to your help and feedback as this program grows and shows the results we know it will. Thank you for being here to celebrate this first success. We hope to continue working with you long into the future.

- Late in his life and reflecting on all that he had accomplished Sir Isaac Newton said, "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." You are those giants in the lives of these young people. Thank you for helping them prepare to see further.