

Dearborn Dedication (10/26/90)

Acknowledgements

Governor Blanchard
Representative Young
Regents
Chancellor Wilson
Students, Faculty, Honored Guests and Friends of the University

I am very pleased to be here today

to mark the opening of this wonderful Administration Building.
It is the first facility completed as part
of the General Campus Renovation Project
here at the University of Michigan Dearborn Campus.

This is an important facility that will house

administrative offices and help make campus life better
by consolidating services to faculty and students .
It will also provide much needed additional office, studio, and classroom space.

Perhaps equally importantly,

the Administration, architects and builders
have done a beautiful job of renovation.
As you can see, the building is lovely
--very distinctive, welcoming and user friendly.
It gives just a hint of the improvements that still lie ahead.
that promise to reshape the entire campus environment
and provide greatly improved facilities for science education,
plus a computer and student services center.

I think this renovation project is critically important important.
Students, the entire community,
deserve state of the art facilities and
deserve to have a campus in which they can take pride,

These improvements send a message
that this University and the people who make it up are valued
...that what they are doing is important to society.
that we are determined to give them an environment conducive to learning.
that we are willing to invest in their future.

This renovation is another step forward in our efforts

to better serve the people of Metropolitan Detroit.
As many of you know,
just two weeks ago, we opened a joint Dearborn-Ann Arbor Admissions Office
in the Rackham Building in Detroit
as part of an effort to reach out directly to students and schools
throughout this area.

This is a high priority for our entire University.
We are seeking every avenue of cooperation and collaboration
to strengthen education at all levels for Detroit's children.

Indeed, the Dearborn, Flint and Ann Arbor campuses

of the University of Michigan
collectively are pledged to providing the best educational opportunity
available anywhere to Michigan students of whatever age or race or other circumstance.
This is the essential and unique mission of **public** higher education
....and Michigan's system of publically supported universities
is truly the glory of our state and the envy of the world.

No other state can boast the same unqualified public commitment
over some eight generations
to buidling quality higher educational opportunity.

From its beginnings, the State of Michigan has been the pathbreaker,
provided the model for others to follow
in building institutions that excel in teaching, research and service
to the public interest.

Over the past 175 years, our people had to struggle and sacrifice
to build our universities
but they persevered because they had an abiding faith
in education as the means
to fuel our economy, enrich our society, and
prepare our people for the responsibilities of citizenship.

And this public faith and confidence continues today.
In fact, we would not be here together now ,
were it not for the state support that has made this project possible
along with the rest of the renovation and upgrading
of the Dearborn campus.

For this we must thank the people of Michigan and their leaders,
Governor Blanchard and his administration,
Representative Young and his Legislative colleagues,
for their splendid efforts on behalf of this campus.
You have definitely made the difference for Dearborn.
We are grateful.

And, under the leadership
of Chancellor Wilson
you can be confident that the Dearborn campus
is going all out to repay this public faith and support.

This is one investment that will bring guranteed returns.
The Dearborn classrooms are full of students from early morning until 10:00 at night.
Many of them are the first in their families to attend college,
others are immigrants,
still others are workers and professionals
preparing for advancement or career change.
Through their education, they are not only improving their own chances in life,
they are also strengthening the human capital of our state.
And in our times, it is human capital that is the determining factor
in American competetiveness and prosperity.

Chancellor Wilson's leadership is sustaining

an unwavering commitment to quality in teaching,
an unflagging energy in reaching out to Greater Detroit to better serve the needs
of people of all ages for education
and an abiding a commitment to partnership with the community and its leaders
to work together for a better future.

We are fortunate to have her at the helm of this important campus.

My congratulations to her and to all of you who are
helping us to realize our high aspirations
for the Dearborn campus and its community.