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Award Speech for Margaret Sellers Walker, delivered at the Enrichment Dinner on June 1, 2005

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MARGARET SELLERS WALKER

Arend D. Lubbers Award

Enrichment Dinner

June 1, 2005

Margaret Sellers Walker is a professional with a heart. She is the faculty member who helps those who help others. She has become the expert and specialist in the management of non-profit organizations and agencies, and through teaching and consulting makes them more efficient as they deliver their crucial services to those who need them. She is one of the important players in a billion dollar human services system in west Michigan, taking her Grand Valley credentials beyond the university to the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, which she will chair next year, and to the Boards of Spectrum Health, Clark Retirement Community, and Hope Network, Inc. Whenever you poke around the community looking for good things happening, you are likely to find Margaret. Her interests and experience are grounded also in

the practical. She came to us from City Hall and she serves on the Board of Fifth Third Bank.

From what does her commitment and energy derive? There may be a gene or a person or two in her background propelling her to a high level of caring and achievement. There may have been an epiphanal moment. The manifestation we see is a spirit that transcends strife and division, a personality that is open and accepting, a mentality that is discerning and disciplined, and a sense of humor that lightens and draws people to her.

Margaret, I thank you on behalf of our university for sharing a career with us, a career destined for success and defined by service. Though you have decided to retreat from some of your workload, please don't quit. You do honor to this award by accepting it, and you will always hold honorable rank in the university that recognizes you this evening.