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For immediate release

Job picture for university
graduates said "bright."

Entering a tight job market?

"Then a university education is the best thing you can have going for you," said Marge Millar, manager of placement and career services for Wilfrid Laurier University.

Mrs. Millar was responding to what she saw as a distorted and off-base story and headline in a recent issue of the Globe and Mail which used the word "bleak" to describe the job outlook for university graduates.

"I'm very optimistic about the employment picture for Laurier graduates, as well as for those from other universities throughout the provincial system," she said. "As soon as all statistics for Laurier are complete, our employment rate will be over 90 per cent."

And she added that university graduates still enjoy, as always, the best opportunities for advancement.

She added that the number of company and government recruiters at Laurier is up almost 50 per cent over two years ago since employers are putting a greater emphasis on applicants with university skills.

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A recent Statistics Canada report indicated that at the end of two years beyond graduation 91.8 per cent of all university graduates surveyed were employed.

That compared with a 14 per cent unemployment rate for those with secondary school education and 20 per cent for those with a grade eight education.

The Statistics Canada report data shows, as well, that university education is beneficial in terms of employment, job satisfaction and salary when compared to individuals without post-secondary education.

An interim study at Laurier showed that of the 1980 graduating class 89.1 per cent of graduates from all fields of study were employed at an average salary of \$16,890.

Those graduating in 1980 with a master's degree had an average salary of \$19,342 and their employment rate was 94 per cent.

"This is bleak?" she asked.