

## NEWS RELEASE



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## CONTACT

Lisa Favero, Manager: Strategic Initiatives  
Wilfrid Laurier University  
519-884-0710 ext. 2454 or [lfavero@wlu.ca](mailto:lfavero@wlu.ca)

Kevin Crowley, Director, Communications & Public Affairs  
Wilfrid Laurier University  
519-884-0710 ext. 3070 or [kcrowley@wlu.ca](mailto:kcrowley@wlu.ca)

### **RE-imagine conference seeks to examine the role and future of universities**

WATERLOO – What are the emerging trends for Canadian universities? How should teaching and research be integrated? Are we optimizing the student experience? These are just a few of the issues to be discussed Oct. 20 at Laurier’s conference, “RE-imagine: The Role and Future of Universities in a Changing World.”

“Laurier’s centennial provides us with an opportunity to stop and think about the role universities have played over the last 100 years and what that role may look like in the future,” said Max Blouw, president and vice-chancellor of Laurier. “The conference offers a forum to talk about issues of importance to post-secondary institutions and how we can move forward in a strategic way.”

RE-imagine features two keynote speakers: Paul Davidson, president of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), who will discuss “Canadian Universities in the Global Context;” and Bill Tierney, professor and director of the Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis at the University of Southern California, whose talk is entitled “The Class of 2025: Building Tomorrow’s Campus.”

“2011 begins our second century as a university; a century that by all accounts will see significant changes in the way we in the post-secondary sector learn, teach, create, undertake research and disseminate our scholarship,” said Deb MacLatchy, Laurier’s vice-president: academic and provost.

MacLatchy says it is important to take time to really understand how post-secondary institutions fulfill essential roles in educating the next generations of leaders and innovators, in contributing to local and global communities and economies, and in creating the critical reflections, discoveries and innovations needed to improve all aspects of human endeavour.

To open the conference, Blouw will provide a historical overview of the dominant forces that have shaped higher education. Throughout the day, panel sessions will cover topics such as “RE-imagining Universities and Post-Secondary Education,” “RE-thinking Education and Research,” and “RE-considering the Student Experience and Student Engagement in Learning.”

The discussions and keynote sessions will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Senate and Board Chamber at Laurier’s Waterloo campus and will be followed by a reception. Tickets are \$50 for students, \$100 for Laurier faculty and staff, and \$150 for all other interested individuals. Online registration closes on Oct. 14. Tickets will be available for purchase on the day of the event by cheque only. For more information, please visit [www.laurier100.ca/re-imagine](http://www.laurier100.ca/re-imagine) or contact Lisa Favero at [lfavero@wlu.ca](mailto:lfavero@wlu.ca).