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Laurier's Deborah MacLatchy named one of Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women

WATERLOO – Deborah MacLatchy, vice-president: academic and provost for Wilfrid Laurier University, has been named one of Canada's Most Powerful Women for 2012 in a Top 100 list compiled by the Women's Executive Network (WXN).

MacLatchy was honoured in the category for public-sector leaders. Nominees are assessed on four criteria: management role, vision and leadership, financial performance, and community service.

"Deb is an inspiring leader and a wonderful colleague," said Max Blouw, president and vice-chancellor of Laurier. "She leads by example, and her commitment to student, staff and faculty success and excellence is exemplary. I value her contributions enormously."

This is the 10th year WXN has held the Canada's Most Powerful Women event, which honours corporate directors and executives, entrepreneurs, and trailblazers. Past winners include Laurier alumnus Heather Munroe-Blum, president and vice-chancellor of McGill University, and Ginny Dybenko, former dean of the Laurier School of Business & Economics.

"I'm honoured to be part of a list that includes so many accomplished Canadian women, and especially to have been nominated by my colleagues at Laurier," said MacLatchy.

As vice-president: academic and provost, MacLatchy oversees the strategic and operational management of the academic functions of the university, including the management of Laurier's seven faculties and the Brantford campus, their departments and programs, as well as the library network. Her portfolio also includes services designed to support teaching and learning such as Teaching Support Services, student recruitment, the Registrar's Office, international programming and computing services.

MacLatchy is also responsible for a majority share of the university budget, and will participate in the Integrated Planning and Resource Management process that will position Laurier to meet the challenges and opportunities of its second century.

In addition to her management role at Laurier, MacLatchy has dedicated a large portion of her time to teaching, supporting her graduate students, and conducting her own research, which is primarily focused on the effects of contaminants on aquatic ecosystems.

MacLatchy received her PhD in 1991 from the University of Manitoba. In 2007, she was appointed the dean of science at Laurier, making her the first female dean of the university's Faculty of Science, and one of the youngest deans at Laurier. In 2009, she was named to her current role.