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Adam Lawrence named dean of students at Laurier Brantford

BRANTFORD – Wilfrid Laurier University has appointed Adam Lawrence to the position of dean of students for Laurier’s Brantford campus, effective July 15, 2013.

Lawrence has over 10 years of integrated and engaged experience in residence life, diversity & equity, and student affairs. Most recently, Lawrence served as the acting dean of students at Laurier’s Waterloo campus during the 2012/13 academic year.

The role of dean of students, Laurier Brantford campus is part of a recent strategic change within Laurier Student Affairs that focuses on student service and support, development and well-being, and student success. Enhancing Laurier's innovative integrated and engaged approach to learning, the dean plays a key collaborative role with students, staff, faculty and multiple community colleagues and partners. Crisis management continues to be a critical skill that accompanies the dean's office.

Current Student Affairs initiatives underway at Laurier include the new Wellness Centre, Student Life and Engagement Centre, Aboriginal student support, restorative justice focused student code of conduct; and continued student leadership development in partnership with Laurier’s Student Union (WLUSU) and Graduate Student Association (GSA).

Lawrence will report to David McMurray, Laurier’s vice-president: Student Affairs, and work closely with Leanne Holland Brown, dean of students at Laurier’s Waterloo campus. This structure creates a direct line to senior leadership from both campuses and supports a strong multi-campus operational model.

"I am absolutely delighted to announce the appointment of Adam Lawrence as dean of students, Laurier Brantford campus," said McMurray. "Adam's successive advancement in Student Affairs at Laurier, relationship with our students, staff and faculty, his reputation and regard in the field nationally, and his outstanding commitment to community will serve the dean's portfolio exceptionally well. Adam's commitment is long term, and I look forward to working closely with him in Brantford, as we continue our continuous improvement strategies to support, serve and enhance the student experience."

Lawrence earned a BA in psychology from Western University, and an MA in Leadership from the University of Guelph. As a student affairs professional, Lawrence has held a variety of positions at Laurier including Residence Life area coordinator; director, Diversity & Equity; and acting dean of students (Waterloo campus). Lawrence's innovative, student-centered approach to management and development has led to the development of a variety of creative programs and partnerships, including the Diversity & Equity Office, Alternative Reading Week, the Diversity Certificate Program, the Hall of Nations, and the Campus Coalition Against Gendered Violence.

Lawrence has also been active in the Laurier & greater Kitchener-Waterloo community as an Assistant Coach for the Laurier Women's Fastball Team, a Board member for the Kitchener Downtown Community Health Centre, and a volunteer at the Out of the Cold program. He was named as a Top 40 under 40 by the Kitchener-Waterloo Record in 2013, recognizing young leaders in the community.

"I feel both honoured and privileged to assume the dean of students role at Laurier Brantford," said Lawrence. "My passion and dedication to student affairs is what attracted me to the position, and I am so excited to integrate myself into the vibrant Laurier Brantford campus and Brantford community."