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New Laurier program aims
to link students, employers

Students often need to experience a career directly in order to find out whether they have an interest in it and suitability for it.

And employers need a better opportunity to examine the potential of prospective employees than they get in the usual brief job interview.

"That's why we have decided to introduce a program that we're calling CONNECTIONS," said Charlene Zietsma, arts and science career adviser at Wilfrid Laurier University.

She said students in second, third and fourth year arts, science or music who volunteer for the program will be assisted by Career Services staff in interview, presentation and job search techniques during the fall term. They will then work for participating employers during the university's reading week next February.

Zietsma said the students participating will benefit by learning about jobs that interest them and will have the opportunity to make valuable employer contacts which could lead to permanent or summer positions.

The program will be tested this year, Zietsma said, with about 20 students participating. If the program proves successful, it will be expanded next year.

She said a similar program at the University of Virginia had led to 50 per cent of student participants getting job offers.

CONNECTIONS differs from two other Laurier programs-- co-op and internship-- in that students will work only during reading week, and it will be open to three-year general students, in addition to four-year honors students.