

FROM

## *Wilfrid Laurier University*

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### University presidents to visit Paris high school

The presidents of Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo and the University of Guelph will meet with senior students at Paris District high school Tuesday to find out what these potential applicants expect from universities.

WLU president John Weir and Guelph president Brian Segal are co-hosting the visit on behalf of the Council of Ontario Universities, which is sponsoring a series of secondary school visits across the province.

The COU tour, involving eight communities from Oct. 11 to Oct. 19, is a response to the unprecedented demand for university studies and record-high first-year enrolments. Provincewide, applications to universities were up nine per cent this year.

The University of Guelph experienced a 29-per-cent increase in applicants for the fall semester just underway while Laurier's applications were up by more than 19 per cent.

Unlike the information programs that universities have traditionally directed to students, these meetings are intended to gather information from students, their parents, teachers and counsellors. Their comments will add to the existing dialogue

between universities and government on the issues of the quality of, demand for, and access to university programs.

Other participants for the Paris visit include George Pedersen, president of the University of Western Ontario in London and Gerald Booth, a professor of sociology and anthropology at the University of Windsor.

During the question-and-answer session at 10 a.m., the university administrators will be looking for information on students' aspirations and worries, on the university program in which they hope to enroll and what they expect, in terms of quality, from the university experience.

The universities are also interested in the students' feelings about heightened competition for places in limited enrolment programs and the basic competition to win a place at an Ontario university.

- 30 -

Media are invited to attend the 10 a.m. session, but are asked to withhold questions until the conclusion of the student dialogue, at which time the presidents will be available for interviews.

For more information, contact Mary Dickieson, University of Guelph, (519) 824-4120 ext. 3338 or Julia Ann Easley, Wilfrid Laurier University, (519) 884-1970.