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The following is under embargo  
until after the lunch on Jan. 25

Betty Sims to receive Laurier Outstanding Business Leader Award

Betty Sims, president and general manager of Chicopee Manufacturing Limited in Kitchener, has been named recipient of the 1989 Laurier Outstanding Business Leader Award.

The official announcement will be made at the annual awards luncheon for business and economics students at the Paul Martin Centre on campus Jan. 25.

Established three years ago by the university's school of business and economics, the award recognizes leadership in the field of business management.

Sims was selected from nominations submitted by faculty members. An awards committee recommended two nominees and the final decision was made by Dr. John Weir, president of the university; Dr. Russell Muncaster, vice-president academic; and Dr. Alex Murray, dean of the school of business and economics.

A native of Brunswick, Georgia, Sims attended Duke University in North Carolina where she majored in economics. After receiving a bachelor of arts degree in 1956, she worked in the investment department of the Wilmington Trust Company in Wilmington, Delaware, for a year.

In 1957, she married Peter Sims, a lifelong Kitchener resident whom she had met while travelling in Europe. After immigrating to Canada, she spent the next 19 years raising five children and doing volunteer work.

When the youngest of their children entered first grade, her husband suggested that she come to work at Chicopee Manufacturing, a company in which the family had a substantial financial interest and which he felt needed some organizing.

In October 1976, she started as systems manager and installed the company's first computer system. In 1979, she became vice-president of administration; in 1983, general manager; and in 1984, assumed the presidency as well.

Chicopee Manufacturing services the aerospace and related industries by providing custom precision machining of medium to large components and sub-assemblies in titanium, high-strength steels and aluminum alloys.

Sims' past volunteer activities include being president of the Kitchener-Waterloo chapter of the Canadian Federation of University Women, chairman of the Kitchener Library Board, chairman of the Kitchener-Waterloo Bilingual School, president of the Kitchener Provincial Liberal Association, and managing several federal and provincial Liberal campaigns.

She is currently a member of the Aerospace Industries Association of Canada, the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, the Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation's board of directors, Wilfrid Laurier University's board of governors and chairman of the fund-raising committee for a new building for the

Kitchener-Waterloo Bilingual School.

Sims' husband practises law as a partner in the firm Sims, Mckinnon, Varey, Griggs and Trafford. They live in Kitchener and in addition to having five children, they have two grandchildren.

Last year's winner was Patrick Forde and in 1987, it was Hugh Sloan, former president of Budd Canada Inc. in Kitchener.

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