

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



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Grocery executive David Williams to speak on retailing at WLU dinner

Waterloo, Ont. (May 30) — Grocery executive David Williams will speak on the future of retailing at the fourth annual MBA Industry Dinner hosted by Wilfrid Laurier University on Monday, June 12.

Williams is executive vice-president of Loblaw Companies Ltd. and president of three of its wholly owned subsidiaries: National Grocers Co. Ltd., Loblaws Supermarkets Ltd., and Atlantic Wholesalers Ltd.

"We are catering to the wants of consumers that change every day," Williams said as he was preparing his address. "And consumers that used to be defined in terms of large segments are now defined as segments of one.

"The new challenge to retailers is the understand those wants and needs quickly and to be more responsive to them," he added.

Williams is co-chair of the steering committee for the Canadian Industry Packaging Stewardship Initiative and a member of the Efficient Consumer Response Committee. He is also on the board of the Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors, the National American Wholesale Grocers' Association, and the Grocery Industry Charitable Foundation.

He was recently appointed to the Premier's Council on Health, Well-Being, and Social Justice and the Minister of Citizenship's Advisory Council on Employment Equity.

The evening, organized by MBA students, will begin with a reception at 6 p.m. and dinner will follow at 7 p.m. at the Valhalla Inn in Kitchener. Williams is expected to begin speaking at about 7:45 p.m. Call (519) 884-0710 ext. 2142 to reserve tickets.

About 70 students in the inaugural class of the 12-month MBA program will complete it in August. The full-time MBA program, first offered in 1986, was redesigned to foster integrated thinking and features research projects with business, service with not-for-profit organizations, and opportunities for international experience. There are about 190 students in the part-time MBA program.

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