

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University and Digital Equipment of Canada,
a division of Compaq Canada Inc.

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PC Servicenter™ @ LAURIER will increase access to key technology
Partnership part of University's IT strategy

For Immediate Release

July 22, 1998
35-98

Contact: Shelley Worden
Manager, Laurier Bookstore
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3107

or Mike Pearce
PC Servicenter Marketing Manager,
Digital Equipment of Canada, a division of Compaq Canada Inc.
(905) 709-6656

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University has entered into a partnership with Digital Equipment of Canada, a division of Compaq Canada Inc., which will increase Laurier's access to crucial computer technology. A recently signed agreement allows DIGITAL to sell a broad range of computer products and services in the Laurier Bookstore.

The PC Servicenter™ @LAURIER is the bookstore's response to customer demand for more sales and service of computer products. By late summer it will offer a full range of hardware, software and accessories, along with the comprehensive menu of support services. While the PC Servicenter™ will be open to the general public, its prime objective will be to service the educational needs of the Laurier community.

"Laurier entered into this partnership because it fit so well with our information technology strategy," explained Laurier president and vice-chancellor Robert Rosehart. "We are committed to making the most advanced information technology available to the Laurier community. IT is a priority identified during our recently completed University planning process – a priority shared by the Ontario government. This agreement will help Laurier participate in the province's Access to Technology Program (ATOP), designed to increase enrolment in computer-related university programs."

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The agreement allows both partners to fully concentrate on their core competencies. While Laurier focuses on delivering quality academic programs, DIGITAL will bring the experience and resources of a global computer service company to campus.

Student, faculty, staff and alumni will be able to purchase a PC system that complies with Laurier's network and connectivity standards. The PC Servicenter^m will offer educational prices on services and systems; and it will assess and upgrade existing systems to ensure they operate as an effective learning tool. It will also offer a two-to-three day turn-around time for repairs to most major brands, to ensure learning is not hampered by system failures.

DIGITAL is also showing its commitment to academic development by contributing \$200,000 to the University's information technology initiatives. Half of this contribution will be in hardware and software to help establish a new computer lab and/or upgrade existing facilities. The balance will fund other priorities identified in Laurier's planning document.

The PC Servicenter^m is part of the Digital Equipment Corporation Customer Services Division. The division's 18,000 service engineers deliver computer service and support in over 100 countries. This global network generates \$4-billion annually by supporting more than 14,000 products distributed by 1,300 vendors.