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Wilfrid Laurier
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Laurier gathers 21 chief executives for Chancellor's Summit *Forum will debate Canada's ability to compete in international market*

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WATERLOO – Academics, students and members of the general public will hear 21 of the country's top executives debate Canada's ability to compete in an international market when the Chancellor's Summit on the Internationalization of Investment convenes at Wilfrid Laurier University later this week.

Twenty corporate presidents, CEOs and chairpersons will join John E. Cleghorn, chairman and CEO of the Royal Bank and Chancellor of Wilfrid Laurier University, for a panel discussion during the Chancellor's Summit. Held on the **Laurier campus in Waterloo from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. on October 1**, the Chancellor's Summit will offer insight into the beliefs of top executives who are now dealing with the issues involved in operating in an international marketplace.

"This will be an exploration by senior executives of a topic that is of tremendous importance to them and to all Canadians," explained Scott Carson, dean of the Laurier School of Business and Economics and current CEO of Ontario's Privatization Secretariat. "From NAFTA to the Liberal government's formal trade missions around the world – this has become a crucial subject in the last half-decade."

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Carson, who will moderate the discussion, will ask panelists to address three key themes:

- **International Investment and Competitiveness:** Are Canadian corporations sufficiently international? What does it take to compete effectively in an international marketplace? Is Canada's economy structured for competitiveness in the 21st century?
- **The Role of Government:** Should government have an international competitiveness strategy? Are trade missions important? Are there regulatory or tax changes that could enhance international competitiveness?
- **The Importance of Canadian Universities to International Investment and Competitiveness:** Are Canadian university graduates prepared for a global economy? Is there a role for a liberal arts education or should programs that support economic competitiveness get funding priority? How should business support education?

Carson will lead the panel through a discussion of the three themes before inviting questions from a smaller student panel. Five students with various backgrounds – representing a business education, the liberal arts and international experience – will have 30 minutes to question the panel. The audience will also have an opportunity to ask questions.

"The topic may sound very business oriented, but it's one that applies to people who you wouldn't necessarily identify with business on a day-to-day basis," says Robert G. Rosehart, Laurier's president and vice-chancellor. "The Chancellor's Summit is an example of how Laurier provides opportunities for debate on issues that impact a wide audience. We wanted to ensure that everyone with an interest could benefit from this opportunity."

That desire prompted Laurier to alter the timing, location and format of the annual forum. The previous Chancellor's Symposiums were full-day events held in Toronto in June. The 1998 Chancellor's Summit provides greater access to faculty, students and members of the general public in the Waterloo Region.

Note: A complete list of the panel participants is included in the attached agenda.