

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Donation will fund senior position for new entrepreneurial centre *John Dobson Foundation gives \$300,000 to Schlegel Centre for Entrepreneurial Studies*

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WATERLOO – A foundation dedicated to educating the public on the importance of entrepreneurship has moved Laurier one step closer to opening a centre for entrepreneurial studies. The Montreal-based John Dobson Foundation is donating \$300,000 to fund the position of director for The Schlegel Centre for Entrepreneurial Studies.

The donation, worth \$100,000 per year for three years, will allow Laurier to hire a director to bridge the gap between academe and the business community. The director will represent both the centre and The Laurier School of Business and Economics to business and government, implement initiatives that businesses can support, establish centre sub-units that further its goals and improve Laurier's image as a focal point for entrepreneurial excellence.

“We'll be looking for a non-academic director who can outline the centre's mission to members of the business community and other external audiences,” explains A. Scott Carson, dean of The Laurier School of Business and Economics. “This individual will be equally comfortable working with academics and non-academics – offering expertise, entrepreneurial spirit and familiarity with both the local business community and high-tech sector.”

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The \$9.5-million Schlegel Centre will promote wealth creation in the Kitchener-Waterloo community and across Ontario, with a special focus on start-up and early stage technology enterprises. Its strategy will include increasing the management competencies of business graduates, enhancing academic research in entrepreneurship and supporting the growing entrepreneurial technology marketplace.

John W. Dobson founded The John Dobson Foundation in 1986 to support small-business initiatives and research on subjects relating to entrepreneurship. The foundation's mandate is to educate the public on matters related to Canada's free enterprise system, its entrepreneurial activities and its financing of emerging companies.