

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



KPMG donates \$100,000 to Laurier's entrepreneurship centre *Schlegel Centre for Entrepreneurial Studies to include atrium lounge for free flow of ideas*

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WATERLOO – A longtime supporter of the school of business and economics (SBE) at Wilfrid Laurier University has made a significant donation to a new entrepreneurial centre. KPMG is donating \$100,000 towards the construction of the Schlegel Centre for Entrepreneurial Studies.

The KPMG donation will fund a main-floor lounge that will feature a three-storey atrium with skylight. Named the KPMG Lounge, the space will provide a pivotal meeting spot where students, staff and faculty can meet socially and to exchange ideas.

“A good research and learning space includes more than classrooms and offices. It needs to offer an environment that encourages the free flow of discussion and debate,” said SBE dean Scott Carson. “This very generous donation from KPMG will make a significant contribution to the Schlegel Centre’s mission of furthering research, teaching and consulting in the area of entrepreneurship.”

John Matheson, chair of the KPMG Foundation, said “KPMG is pleased to support Laurier’s efforts to meet the increasing demands for expertise in business and, in particular, its growing focus on entrepreneurship.”

The Schlegel Centre and its programs will build on SBE’s strengths in finance, marketing and business policy. It will also strengthen the outreach efforts of the Laurier Institute, which provides education and consulting services to the business community.

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Named for noted alumni Robert and Myrna Schlegel, the \$12-million three-storey building will connect to SBE's existing home, the Frank C. Peters Building. It will house the entrepreneurship centre as well as provide seven classrooms and a large number of new faculty offices to keep pace with growing enrollment while maintaining an essential low student to faculty ratio.

Crucial meeting, study and discussion space will encircle the KPMG Lounge, which will provide natural lighting throughout the building.

The Ontario government has contributed \$3.5-million towards this project through the SuperBuild Growth Fund for Post Secondary Education. Private donations totalled \$300,000 even before fundraising efforts began. In total, Laurier needs to raise \$4.8-million from the private sector for the project.