

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
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**MOHAWK**  
C O L L E G E

## **GVES launches fundraising campaign for Laurier and Mohawk *Student Life Campaign to raise \$500,000 for residence and student-life facilities***

**For Immediate Release**

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WATERLOO – The Grand Valley Educational Society (GVES) is launching a new campaign to help meet an increasing need for student services in Brantford. The goal of the volunteer-based Student Life Campaign is \$500,000.

The proceeds will help cover the cost of turning Brantford’s Post House building into a residence for Laurier Brantford students and of converting space into a student-life centre for students at Mohawk College’s Brantford campus. Increasing enrolment at both post-secondary institutions has created a need for more student services in the area.

“The Student Life Campaign will contribute, in a major way, to the future of Brantford and Brant County,” says Leo Groarke, dean of Laurier Brantford. “It will help create a community which can provide a full range of college and university programs to its residents. It will also attract students who can help transform downtown Brantford by studying, working and living in this area.”

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This is the GVES's second fundraising campaign. In the late 1990s, the community group helped bring a university campus to Brantford, and then raised \$2 million to fund building renovations as well as student scholarships and bursaries. It later expanded its mandate to include all post-secondary institutions operating in Brantford and invited Mohawk to participate on its operating board.

“This program wouldn't have happened without the support of the GVES and the community,” says Doug Baker, dean of Brantford Mohawk and Applied Arts. “The GVES represents Brantford and its efforts show how much this community values post-secondary education and supports its students.”

The Brantford Campus of Mohawk College opened in 1970 and offers a variety of full-time programs as well as skills and apprenticeship training and continuing education courses to more than 2,200 students. There are almost 1,000 students enrolled in full-time, post-secondary programs this year – a 12.1 per cent increase from Fall 2002 – in such programs as law and security/police foundations, health and human services, and aboriginal programming.

Laurier Brantford was launched, in part, to capitalize on an increasing demand for post-secondary education. It opened in the newly renovated Carnegie Library in 1999 with close to 100 full- and part-time students. It has since added two residence facilities that accommodate 260 students, acquired two buildings to increase teaching and office space, and now has 750 full- and part-time students.

Laurier Brantford and Mohawk College offer a series of joint programs that allow students to earn both a degree and a diploma in four years.

The Student Life Campaign is co-chaired by Colleen Miller and Cindy Swanson. The GVES is welcoming public and private support. Anyone wishing more information is encouraged to contact the GVES at (519) 756-2499 or at [gves@bfree.on.ca](mailto:gves@bfree.on.ca).