

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



Interim dean of Laurier's new faculty of education brings curriculum expertise and local experience to her role

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WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University has announced the appointment of Lynne Hannay as the interim dean of its new faculty of education, which is scheduled to open in September 2007. Hannay is a curriculum professor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), a visiting professor at Laurier Brantford and has served as the head of OISE's Kitchener-based Midwestern Centre since 1987.

During her 18-month term, Hannay will apply her expertise in curriculum reform and educational leadership to designing Laurier's new bachelor of education program.

Sue Horton, Laurier's vice-president: academic, cites Hannay's significant educational research, teaching experience and long-term relationship with local school boards as key factors in her selection. During her near 20-year term heading OISE's Midwestern Centre, Hannay has conducted extensive research with the local school boards, taught graduate classes for OISE, and supervised OISE's courses and workshops for teachers in the tri-city area. Horton also praised Hannay for her role in making Laurier's faculty of education a reality.

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“It is safe to say that Lynne’s assistance in drafting the initial proposal was instrumental in helping ensure the submission to the two Ontario ministries to open Laurier’s new faculty of education was successful,” Horton explained. “In addition, her strong collaboration with the four local school boards has been absolutely invaluable.”

Hannay is enthusiastic about her role. “It is an honour and incredible opportunity to initiate a faculty of education at Wilfrid Laurier University,” she said. “I have been impressed with the support from all parts of the university and the local school districts and communities. Together we can create an excellent teacher education program that will not only support new teachers but will also provide the best possible learning for their future students.”

When Hannay’s term begins in January, she will hire four full-time faculty members, develop the practicum placement manual, select partner professional development schools and look at the large number of program applicants.

Hannay holds a PhD from Ohio State University and bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education from the University of Victoria. In addition to teaching in the public school system for seven years, Hannay’s research has been published extensively and supported by more than \$1 million in grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and the Ontario Ministry of Education and Training.

The new faculty of education, located on Laurier’s Waterloo campus, is in partnership with St. Jerome’s University at the University of Waterloo and the four surrounding school districts. Laurier’s teacher education program is a one-year, full-time consecutive program for prospective primary/junior teachers, which connects theory and practice through practicums and placements, as well as mentoring activities following graduation.