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Contact:

Dr. Deborah MacLatchy, Dean: Faculty of Science
Wilfrid Laurier University
519-884-1970 ext. 2401 or dmaclatchy@wlu.ca

Kevin Crowley, Associate Director: News & Editorial
Wilfrid Laurier University
519-884-1970 ext. 3070 or kcrowley@wlu.ca

Laurier science dean appointed vice-president: academic and provost

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University has appointed Dr. Deborah MacLatchy to the position of vice-president: academic and provost with the unanimous endorsement of the university Senate and Board of Governors.

MacLatchy, a distinguished zoologist with extensive experience in research, teaching and administration, has served as dean of Laurier's Faculty of Science since July 1, 2007. She will begin her five-year term as vice-president: academic and provost on March 1, 2009.

"I am delighted to announce Dr. MacLatchy's new appointment," said Laurier president Dr. Max Blouw. "The vice-president: academic and provost plays a vital role within the university, and Dr. MacLatchy brings a tremendous amount of experience, talent and energy to the job."

Reporting to the president, the vice-president: academic and provost is the academic leader of the university, working closely with the president, the other vice-presidents, the deans and faculty to develop academic programming and to advance the university's strategic plans.

"I am very excited by this new challenge," said MacLatchy. "Laurier has a well-deserved reputation for academic excellence and I look forward to working with my colleagues to strengthen and expand that reputation."

MacLatchy joined Laurier in 2007 after 13 years at the University of New Brunswick, Saint John, where she served in several senior roles, including dean of science, applied science and engineering, and as director of the university's international office.

A native of Nova Scotia, MacLatchy earned a BSc at Acadia University and a PhD in zoology at the University of Manitoba. As an ecotoxicologist and comparative endocrinologist, her research has focused on the effects of various chemicals and pollutants on the health of fish. She is also interested in international development and has worked on projects in Cuba and South America.

MacLatchy has authored or co-authored numerous articles and publications, and has secured research funding from many agencies, including NSERC, Environment Canada, and CIDA. She has also served on a number of professional organizations, including a term as president of the Canadian Society of Zoologists. As dean of science at Laurier, MacLatchy has contributed to many initiatives, including the establishment of a BSc in Health Sciences, the launch of the Laurier Institute for Water Science, and the advancement of the university's research agenda.

MacLatchy takes over the vice-president: academic portfolio from Dr. Leo Groarke, who has served in the position on an acting basis since August 2008.