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Laurier welcomes Crown wards for campus tour Feb. 10

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University will host Crown ward youth for a campus tour and discussion with Laurier professors on Feb. 10, 2010.

The Crown ward visit is an initiative of the provincially sponsored Waterloo-Wellington Crown Ward Educational Championship Team, established in 2009. The team works to improve the chances for Crown ward youth – children and youth under the care of the government – to complete their high school diploma and pursue post-secondary education.

“We’ll show interested youth from the area Laurier’s unique opportunities – academic, social and otherwise,” said Colleen Willard-Holt, Educational Championship Team member and dean of Laurier’s Faculty of Education. “Working to support Crown ward youth is a privilege that aligns with Laurier’s focus on inspiring lives of leadership and purpose.”

Visitors will have the chance to talk to Abbie Gateman, a fourth-year sociology student at Laurier and a former Crown ward who now serves on the educational championship team.

Following their tour of various offices and campus services, participants will join Laurier professors for lunch and discussion.

Each Educational Championship Team includes representatives from children’s aid societies, school boards, post-secondary institutions and other agencies. The teams offer mentoring, tutoring and support to help youth make the transition to post-secondary education.

Media interview opportunities:

The tour begins Feb. 10, 9:30 a.m. at Laurier’s information kiosk (John Aird building on University Avenue). Willard-Holt and Gateman will be available for interviews during the lunch at noon in the Wilfrid Laurier University Student Union (WLUSU) boardroom, 4th floor, Fred Nichols Campus Centre.

Note to media regarding photo and videos:

Photos and videos in which Crown wards’ identities are discernible are not permitted, to respect privacy rights of Crown wards and their status as minors.