

For Immediate Release March 10, 2011 | 045-11

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Laurier's David Docherty named president of Mount Royal University

WATERLOO – David Docherty, a political scientist at Wilfrid Laurier University who is widely known for his expertise in federal and provincial affairs, has been named president of Mount Royal University in Calgary, Alberta.

Docherty will complete the current academic term at Laurier and take up his new duties at Mount Royal on Aug. 1, 2011.

"David has made many outstanding contributions to Wilfrid Laurier University as a teacher, scholar, administrator and colleague," said Max Blouw, Laurier's president and vice-chancellor. "His experience, passion and good humour will be missed. I thank him for his many years of distinguished service and wish him well in his new position at Mount Royal University."

Docherty received his BA from Laurier in 1984 and went on to earn a master's degree from McMaster University and a PhD from the University of Toronto. He returned to Laurier as a professor of political science in 1994.

Docherty has held a number of senior positions during his time at Laurier, including chair of the Department of Political Science and dean of the Faculty of Arts. Most recently, he has served as senior advisor, multi-campus initiatives, and played a lead role on the President's Task Force on Multi-Campus Governance. He has also been an active member of the Canadian Political Science Association and is helping to organize the association's first stand-alone annual conference, which will be held at Laurier May 16-18, 2011.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for me both personally and professionally," Docherty said. "I am very excited about working with an incredible group of individuals at Mount Royal. At the same time, I am going to miss everyone at Laurier. I have been here as a professor since 1994 and have made many lasting friendships. The people and organization at Laurier have allowed me to achieve so much, and I am grateful to the university and the many individuals who made coming to work each day such an enjoyable experience."