

## NEWS RELEASE



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### **Laurier Brantford Diversity Week includes reading and gender workshop**

BRANTFORD – The Student Life Office and the MyRespect team will host Laurier Brantford’s third annual Diversity Week beginning Monday, February 6. A campus-wide program, the week features many campus groups and partners hosting sessions, presenters and workshops that will increase awareness, share knowledge and develop participants’ skills that will help to strengthen the Laurier Brantford campus and promote mutual respect.

As part of Diversity Week, Laurier Brantford is hosting an evening with internationally acclaimed writer, scholar and educator, Karleen Pendleton-Jiménez on Thursday, Feb. 9, 5:30 p.m. at the Research and Academic Centre – West, room RCW 203, 150 Dalhousie Street.

Pendleton-Jiménez will read from *Are You a Boy or a Girl*, a children's picture book which was a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award in 2000, and discuss her screenplay adaptation of this book for an animated short, *Tomboy*, which has won awards at several international film festivals.

*Are You a Boy or a Girl?* and *Tomboy* capture a day in the life of a Canadian-Hispanic girl who is teased for her tomboyish ways. Serious in subject matter, but light-hearted in tone, *Tomboy* provides an opening for important conversations about gender diversity.

As an educator, Pendleton-Jiménez focuses on the ways that children, youth and teachers understand and engage with gender diversity. With Isabel Killoran, she has edited an important teacher resource, *Unleashing the Unpopular: Talking About Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity in Education*. *Unleashing the Unpopular* “is a unique teacher education resource that strives to improve understanding of issues related to sexual orientation, gender diversity, and education, and how they affect students, teachers, schools, and the community.”

Pendleton-Jiménez will also lead a workshop at 7:30 p.m. (open to the public, limited space) that will engage participants in the issues addressed by the book, and encourage reflection on how children and youth conduct themselves in relation to gender.

More information about the evening with Pendleton-Jiménez (including how to register for the workshop), and other diversity week events, including the full schedule of the week are available at: [www.lbstudentaffairs.ca/diversityweek](http://www.lbstudentaffairs.ca/diversityweek)