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NOV. 8, 2013 | 155-13

Laurier hosts university-community enterprise summit

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University, in collaboration with the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), will host the Inspired Change Summit: Innovation in University-Community Enterprises Wednesday, Nov. 20, for Laurier faculty members.

“Laurier was chosen by AUCC to host this showcase event because of our exceptional community engagement,” said Deb MacLatchy, vice-president: Academic and Provost, whose office is hosting the event. “The goal of the day is to discover the various ways we can use entrepreneurial approaches to create outstanding opportunities for community-university engagement.”

The summit is part of AUCC’s Open Doors, Open Knowledge: Community-University Engagement initiative. Through engaged dialogue, the one-day summit will raise the profile of social entrepreneurship, the creative economy and innovation in the arts, humanities, music and social sciences – including social work – at Laurier.

The event will include a keynote from Jonathan Isham, faculty director of the Centre for Social Entrepreneurship and professor of Economics, Middlebury College, who will be discussing how to teach social entrepreneurship, two panel discussions that showcase local university-community entrepreneurial partnerships as well as student projects conducted through the Laurier Launchpad program. Additional student projects will be highlighted during a poster session.

The event runs from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Senate & Board Chamber and the Paul Martin Centre at Laurier’s Waterloo campus.

The following people are available to be interviewed about the university-community enterprises and the Inspired Change Summit:

- The importance of university-community engagement: Deb MacLatchy, vice-president: Academic and Provost. Contact information: dmaclatchy@wlu.ca or 519-884-0710 ext. 2859.
- University-community engagement from an academic perspective for student education: Michel Desjardins, associate dean: Research and Curriculum, Faculty of Arts, and professor, Department of Religion and Culture. Contact information: mdesjardins@wlu.ca or 519-884-0710 ext. 3323.
- University-community initiatives on Laurier’s Brantford campus: Kathryn Carter, inter-faculty associate dean, Academic Co-ordination. Contact information: kcarter@wlu.ca or 519-756-8228 ext. 5890.
- Student perspective: Richard Fox-Ivey, LaunchPad participant and founder of Symple ID. Contact information: Richard@SympleID.com or 226-929-0057.

For the full schedule of events, visit wlu.ca/inspiredchangesummit.