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Laurier hosts conference on integrated and engaged learning

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University is hosting an inaugural Integrated and Engaged Learning Conference May 7-9, 2014 on the university's Waterloo campus.

The conference, titled "Integrated and Engaged Learning 2014: Exploring Partnerships in Teaching and Learning," will bring together the various partners – both within postsecondary institutions and in their external communities – involved in providing an educational experience that deeply engages students in their learning.

"The means for producing deep and authentic learning are diverse, ranging from flipped classrooms to community placements," said Pat Rogers, associate vice-president: Teaching and Learning. "The conference will showcase these high-impact practices as well as provide a forum for examining the successes and challenges of the integrated and engaged approach to learning."

Keynote sessions include:

- "The World is Your Classroom: Developing and Managing Pedagogically Sound International Volunteer Programs," by Joanne Benham Rennick, assistant professor of Society, Culture and Environment at Laurier and Michel Desjardins, professor of Religion and Culture and associate dean: Research and Curriculum, Faculty of Arts at Laurier.
- "A National Call to Action: Do We Need a New Discourse on Learning?" by Robert Shea, associate vice-president: Academic & Student Affairs, Marine Institute at Memorial University.
- "Learning Partnerships: Engaging in Transformational Learning," by Marcia Baxter Magolda, professor of Educational Leadership, Miami University.

The conference has attracted over 200 participants from northern British Columbia to Newfoundland and will feature concurrent workshops, panel discussions and papers, as well as a poster session and a fast-paced pedagogical speed-dating session introduced to accommodate the large number of proposals received. While most of the sessions will be offered by Laurier faculty, professional staff, students, alumni and community partners, many sessions will be offered by colleagues from other institutions.

The conference also features an invitation-only appreciation breakfast for Laurier's community partners in education.

Registration for the conference is \$100 for external registrants, \$50 for Laurier faculty and staff, and \$10 for students. The registration deadline is April 30, 2014. For full conference details and to register online, please visit wlu.ca/teachingandlearning/ielc. To register after April 30, please email ielc@wlu.ca.

The conference is sponsored by the Offices of the President, Vice-President: Academic and Provost, Vice-President: Student Affairs, Associate Vice-President: Teaching and Learning, and Laurier's Teaching and Learning Council.