



Dr. Heidi Northwood, Dean: Faculty of Liberal Arts
Wilfrid Laurier University
519-756-8228 ext. 5461 or hnorthwood@wlu.ca

Kevin Crowley, Director: Communications & Public Affairs
Wilfrid Laurier University
519-884-0710 ext. 3070 or kcrowley@wlu.ca

DEC. 16, 2014 | 129-14

Nipissing winds down education partnership with Laurier

Current students will be supported in completing program

BRANTFORD — Nipissing University has notified Wilfrid Laurier University that it plans to wind down a partnership to deliver the Concurrent Education program, which has been offered in Brantford for the past 12 years.

Students currently enrolled in the five-year Concurrent Education program will be supported for the duration of their studies. However, Nipissing will not be admitting new students to the program for the 2015-16 academic year, and will withdraw from the partnership entirely once the current cohort of students completes the program in 2019. Meanwhile, Laurier is exploring possible options for admitting new students next year and continuing the program beyond the current cohort of existing students.

Nipissing cited changes to the provincial funding mechanism as the reason for its decision to wind down its partnership with Laurier.

"This is disappointing news for all concerned," said Deborah MacLatchy, Laurier's vice-president: academic and provost. "We want to assure students and their parents that Laurier will do all it can to support those currently enrolled in Concurrent Education to help them complete the program. This is an exceptional and well-respected program, and we will do everything necessary to ensure a continued high-quality experience for current students."

Laurier will keep students advised as important updates arise.

The Concurrent Education program allows students to study toward a Bachelor of Arts degree from Laurier while simultaneously earning a Bachelor of Education degree from Nipissing's Schulich School of Education. The concurrent nature of the program provides students with extensive experience in real classrooms. There were 864 students in the Laurier-Nipissing Concurrent Education program as of Nov. 1.

The Brantford-based Concurrent Education partnership is separate from Laurier's Faculty of Education, which offers a Consecutive Education program on the university's Waterloo campus.

- 30 -