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Student applications to Wilfrid Laurier University increase despite downward trend across Ontario

WATERLOO – The number of students who have applied to Wilfrid Laurier University for the 2015-16 academic year has increased over last year despite a downward trend in the number of students applying to university across Ontario.

The number of high school students who applied to Laurier by the Jan. 14 deadline rose 1.8 per cent over last year compared to a system-wide decline of 0.7 per cent across Ontario. As well, the number of high school applicants who made Laurier their first choice rose 3.2 per cent over last year.

The number of non-high-school applicants to Laurier rose 9.6 per cent compared to a system-wide increase of 1.7 per cent across Ontario. The number of non-high-school applicants who made Laurier their first choice rose 5.9 per cent over last year.

Combining high school applicants and non-high-school applicants applying to first-year studies, Laurier received 22,301 applications by the Jan. 14 deadline, or 2.4 per cent more than last year at this time.

“These increases reflect Laurier’s reputation for delivering one of Canada’s best student experiences and a culture that supports high academic achievement,” said Deborah MacLatchy, vice-president: academic and provost. “A Laurier degree has always held great value for graduates seeking strong academic programs followed by meaningful careers, and we are delighted that students continue to be attracted by Laurier’s exceptional student-centred environment and our reputation for relevant and engaged academic programming.”

Demographic trends in Ontario indicate a decline in the number of 17- and 18-year-olds over the next five years, as well as significant changes in student needs. Faced with these challenges, Laurier has worked hard to strengthen the quality of our renowned student experience and to integrate it with relevant and innovative academic programming. As a result, Laurier graduates leave the university with a solid academic foundation, an ability to think critically, and highly developed social and job skills gained through engagement in student clubs, volunteer activities, workplace experiences and community involvement — all of which are highly valued by employers.

To experience Laurier, please visit our website at wlu.ca and come for a visit. We conduct regular tours of our Waterloo and Brantford campuses, and we are holding March open houses on the following days: March 18 on Laurier’s Brantford campus and March 20 on Laurier’s Waterloo campus.