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Laurier professor Eileen Wood receives prestigious 3M National Teaching Fellowship

WATERLOO – **Eileen Wood**, a professor in Wilfrid Laurier University’s Department of Psychology, has been named a 2016 3M National Teaching Fellow. Widely regarded as Canada’s highest teaching honour, the award recognizes educational leadership and excellence in university teaching.

“I am delighted to see another of our very deserving professors receive this prestigious honour,” said **Max Blouw**, Laurier president and vice-chancellor. “Professor Wood is an extraordinary educator who reflects the great value we place on teaching excellence at Laurier.”

The 3M Teaching Fellowship is Canada’s only cross-disciplinary recognition for university educators who have demonstrated leadership in teaching excellence. Each year, faculty members are invited to nominate colleagues for the award. From these, 10 Fellows are selected for the honour by 3M Canada and the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education.

“Dr. Wood exemplifies what it means to be a truly great teacher,” said **Deborah MacLatchy**, Laurier provost and vice-president: academic. “Her work in the field of teaching and learning is exceptional — in her research on the subject, her innovative approaches with students, and her leadership inside and outside of the university.”

Wood has dedicated her research to learning across the lifespan, studying how information is acquired in traditional and non-traditional learning environments. She is a leader when it comes to using new technologies in the classroom, using them to promote interactive group work that keeps students actively engaged with course material. Outside of her extensive work at Laurier, Wood also developed a course for eCampus Ontario, an online portal of courses at Ontario universities and colleges.

“I am very fortunate, excited and honoured to be recognized for this award,” said Wood. “I also am fortunate and thankful to be surrounded and supported by students, colleagues and staff that embrace the energy, interest, openness and good sense of fun that make teaching so rewarding.”

Since joining Laurier more than 25 years ago, Wood has received numerous awards and recognitions for both her teaching and her scholarly work. Her teaching accolades include: Laurier’s Teaching Excellence Award in 2010; an Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA) Teaching Award in 2012; the Hoffman-Little Award for Faculty, awarded by the Laurier Alumni Association, also in 2012; and was named one of Laurier’s Teaching Fellows in 2014.

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"The 3M Fellowship signifies not only amazing classroom experiences, but also the contributions of Dr. Wood to larger, national discussions about teaching excellence; discussions we value very highly at Laurier," said **Kathryn Carter**, acting associate vice-president: teaching and learning at Laurier. "It takes a sizeable team to put together the nomination package for this award and my thanks go out to all those who were involved. I am thrilled to see Dr. Wood honoured in this way; she is truly a leader in post-secondary education and we are extraordinarily proud to have her among us."

Laurier is renowned for teaching excellence and our faculty members are regularly recognized for their inspirational and innovative approaches to learning.

Wood is the fifth Laurier professor to be named a 3M National Teaching Fellow, joining previous recipients:

- **Carol B. Duncan**, Religion and Culture (2013)
- **Mercedes Rowinsky-Geurts**, Languages and Literatures (2008)
- **Michel Dejardins**, Religion and Culture (2001)
- **Michael Moore** (now retired), English and Film Studies (1993)

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