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## Laurier-hosted conference to explore the future of information technology in higher education

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University will welcome more than 250 information technology (IT) professionals at its Waterloo campus for the annual Ontario Universities Computing Conference (OUCC), May 8-10. This year's conference theme, "IT at a Crossroads," will foster active partnerships among Ontario's universities to address the challenges faced by today's higher education IT departments.

The conference, which is in its 44th year, focuses on bringing together computer technology professionals from academic institutions across the province to facilitate idea sharing and collaboration around IT initiatives in higher education.

"Hosting OUCC provides us with an opportunity to showcase the successes we have had in implementing innovative solutions at Laurier, as well as the chance to learn from other institutions about the great work being done across Ontario," said Nela Petkovic, Laurier's chief information officer. "We have 18 sponsors attending the conference who provide a range of technologies to higher education institutions, and who will enhance our discussions about what the future of IT at universities might look like."

The conference program features IT experts from Laurier and other Ontario universities who will address topics that range from lean process and knowledge sharing to active learning spaces and data security.

Opening keynote speaker Ken Steele, PSE futurist at Eduvation, will explore "The Road Ahead for Campus Tech" with a look at the megatrends reshaping politics, policies and priorities in the years to come.

The closing keynote features Jaime Leal, an entrepreneur and humanitarian relief volunteer who applies the lessons he learned while kidnapped at gunpoint to handling crises, connecting with people and managing expectations.

Even the conference entertainment has an IT flair with local band Hitch a Ride, which features a Laurier music grad, a University of Waterloo IT specialist and a former IT consultant for a Waterloo technology company among its members.

For more information about OUCC 2016, visit [web.wlu.ca/oucc](http://web.wlu.ca/oucc).