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Laurier provost and vice-president academic to receive honorary degree from Acadia University

WATERLOO – **Deborah MacLatchy**, Wilfrid Laurier University’s provost and vice-president: academic, will be awarded a Doctor of Science Honorary Degree **May 16** from Acadia University in Nova Scotia.

MacLatchy is being recognized for her work as an academic leader, scholar and advocate for women in science. She received an Honours Bachelor of Science from Acadia University in 1985.

"At Laurier, we strive to inspire lives of leadership and purpose," said Max Blouw, Laurier’s president and vice-chancellor. "Deb MacLatchy truly embodies these values in her work with students, staff, and faculty. She has made significant contributions to society through her research and her academic leadership, and I’m pleased to see her recognized in such an appropriate and deserving way."

As Laurier’s provost and vice-president: academic, MacLatchy oversees the strategic and operational management of the university’s academic functions, including services that support teaching and learning.

She has dedicated significant time to teaching, supporting graduate students and conducting her own research, which is focused on the effects of contaminants on aquatic ecosystems. MacLatchy has published over 80 peer-reviewed articles in her field.

"It has been a privilege to pursue a career in research and academic administration that has allowed me to support others in their aspirations," said MacLatchy. "I am honoured to be recognized by my alma mater."

In addition to serving a term as Laurier’s acting vice-president: research while in her current role, MacLatchy was also Laurier’s dean of Science from 2007-2009. Previously, she was the dean of Science, Applied Science and Engineering at the University of New Brunswick in Saint John.

MacLatchy is a founding fellow of the Canadian Rivers Institute and a founding member of the Laurier Institute for Water Science and the Laurier Centre for Women in Science. While she was dean of science, she established the Laurier Women in Science and Leadership Award for undergraduate and graduate students. She is a past-president and council member of the Canadian Society of Zoologists and is currently a science director of the Canadian Rivers Institute. She is an active member of the Platform Management Committee of the Southern Ontario Water Consortium and co-leader of the consortium's Ecotoxicology Node.

In 2012, the Women’s Executive Network named MacLatchy one of Canada’s Top 100 Most Powerful Women. She also recently received the Angela Hildyard Recognition Award for innovative leadership in advancing the mission of, and achieving outstanding contributions to, their institution and/or higher education from the Senior Women Academic Administrators of Canada in 2015.

MacLatchy will receive a Doctor of Science Honorary Degree Monday, **May 16** at **10 a.m.** during Acadia University’s Science Faculty convocation in Wolfville, Nova Scotia.