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Michael Lisetto-Smith wins the Laurier Residence Academic Partnership Award

WATERLOO – Michael Lisetto-Smith, manager of Study Skills and Supplemental Instruction (SSC) in the Centre for Student Success at Wilfrid Laurier University, is the recipient of the winter 2017 Residence Academic Partnership Award.

Lisetto-Smith has been a learning strategist since 2006. The SSC enhances student academic life through the promotion of proper learning strategies and study skills that are required by all undergraduate and graduate students to succeed academically.

"I'm very humbled about receiving this award," said Lisetto-Smith. "Collaborating with our academic and campus partners is essential to support student retention and success through workshops, individual consultations, and through providing training and support to peer leaders."

Lisetto-Smith specializes in active learning and effective reading strategies. Throughout the 2016-17 academic year, he has facilitated workshops that support Laurier's student staff, including residence life dons and residence education advisors, to enhance skills that improve academic success. He graduated with a BA in political science from the University of Prince Edward Island and an MA in political science from Wilfrid Laurier University. Lisetto-Smith is also the founder and current president of the Learning Specialists Association of Canada and sits on the steering committee for the International Consortium of Academic Language and Learning Developers.

"Over the past year, Michael contributed to a number of impactful learning experiences in the Department of Residence," said Melissa Pratt, residence coordinator of academic initiatives at Laurier. "Whether providing time and priority management skills to our student staff or hosting advising drop-ins for first-year students in residence, Michael provided many tools, resources and support to the first-year transition."

The Residence Academic Partnership Award is bestowed on one faculty or staff member each term to recognize faculty or staff who support academic initiatives within the university's residences. Previous recipients include: Steve Sider, assistant professor in the Faculty of Education; Louise Dawe, assistant professor in the Faculty of Science; Laura Allan, assistant professor in the School of Business and Economics; Jane Newland, assistant professor of French; Sofy Carayannopoulos, associate professor of Policy; Bob Sharpe, associate professor of Geography; Julie Pong, an academic advisor in the Faculty of Arts; and Mercedes Rowinsky-Geurts, associate professor in the Languages and Literatures department.