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Laurier launches teen edition of Neighbourhood Changemaker program in Brantford

BRANTFORD – Are you a teenager with an idea on how to make positive change in your community, but you're not sure how to implement it? Wilfrid Laurier University's Schlegel Centre for Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation invites 15 to 18-year-olds living in Brantford to apply for the Youth edition of its Neighbourhood Changemaker Program.

The Youth Changemaker Program is free and runs for three days to give youth the tools to bring ideas to life. The program partners its participants with a mentorship network and teaches students how to use creative-thinking when approaching a challenge, how to develop a project plan and budget, how to measure the impact of a project, and what it means to be a community leader.

"We know that empowering youth and inspiring them to create positive change in their local communities builds the leaders of tomorrow," said Laura Allan, executive director of the Schlegel Centre for Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation in the Lazaridis School of Business & Economics at Laurier. "This opportunity exemplifies Laurier's commitment and institutional mandate to foster lives of leadership and purpose."

The Youth Neighbourhood Changemaker Program will run from September 15 – 17, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. Participants who complete the course will receive a certificate from Wilfrid Laurier University and will be eligible to apply for funding to support the launch of their project.

"This project is a natural extension of the City's Neighbourhood Association and community hub program," said Aaron Wallace, manager of Strategic Planning and Community Development, City of Brantford. "We look forward to working with the graduates to advance and implement their project ideas."

For more information on the Youth Neighbourhood Changemaker Program or other Schlegel Centre programs, please visit www.SchlegelLaurier.ca. The Schlegel Centre is part of Laurier's Lazaridis School of Business and Economics and is dedicated to providing co-curricular entrepreneurial opportunities to Laurier students, alumni and community. For more information, or to register, email schlegelcentre@wlu.ca.

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