Wilfrid Laurier University is seeking an innovative and creative leader as its Dean, Faculty of Liberal Arts.

Wilfrid Laurier University and its campuses are located on the Haldimand tract, traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples. This land is part of the Dish with One Spoon Treaty between the Haudenosaunee and Anishnaabe peoples and symbolizes the agreement to share, protect our resources and not to engage in conflict.

It’s a great time to join the Laurier team. The university’s new 2019-2024 Strategy, Today. Tomorrow. Together. focuses on two distinct themes – thriving community and future-readiness – and positions Laurier to address societal and sector challenges and harness opportunities by leveraging foundational strengths in academic excellence, research, partnerships, and community.

Wilfrid Laurier University is a leading Canadian university. Its holistic approach to learning integrates innovative programming with hands-on experience outside the classroom. Through its community of researchers, leaders and educators, Laurier has built a reputation as a world-class institution known for its academic excellence and global impact. In acknowledgement of its exemplary workplace policies and programs, and its commitment to sustainability and lifelong learning, Laurier was named one of the Waterloo Area’s Top Employers in 2019, 2020 and 2021. Laurier specializes in the humanities and social sciences, business and economics, music, science, social work, education and theology.

The Faculty of Liberal Arts, located at the Brantford campus, offers a wide range of programs, from traditional arts disciplines such as English and History to innovative and cutting-edge fields of study such as User Experience Design. In all the programs students get both knowledge and know-how; all programs offer experiential learning opportunities. Through several unique partnerships with Conestoga College and the University of Sussex, students have opportunities to include postgraduate certificates or an additional degree. The Master of Arts program in Social Justice and Community Engagement offered by the Faculty is unique in Canada.

The Dean is a vocal and visible champion of the value of liberal arts and innovative programs, and of Laurier’s student-centred academic mandate. The Dean promotes highly novel approaches to experiential learning, unique partnerships, creative curriculum development and delivery and leads efforts that enable the Faculty and University to achieve the highest standards in education and research. Community-focused and committed to decolonization and Indigenization, equity, diversity, inclusion, social justice, and academic freedom, the Dean is an open and approachable leader. The Dean ensures sustainable growth and competitiveness, develops cross-disciplinary and cross-Faculty programs, and enhances the external profile of the Faculty. The Dean supports and strengthens partnerships with Six Nations of the Grand River and the Mississaugas of the Credit to create innovative programs and support Indigenous students.

Reporting to the Provost & Vice-President: Academic, the Dean of the Faculty of Liberal Arts is responsible for the leadership and administration of all aspects of the operation of the Faculty, including budget and fund development. As a member of the Vice-President: Academic’s Advisory Council, the Dean is a senior academic administrator of Laurier who, along with other deans, fosters an environment where excellence in teaching and research can flourish in Laurier’s multi-campus, multi-community environment. With compassion and respect, the Dean champions and cultivates an innovative environment for the Faculty’s students, faculty, staff, and community members, partners, and the Brantford campus.

Wilfrid Laurier University endeavors to fill positions with qualified candidates who have a combination of education, experience, skills and abilities to successfully perform the duties of the
position while demonstrating Laurier’s Employee Success Factors (https://wlu.ca/about/working-at-laurier/employer-philosophy.html).

Equity, diversity and creating a culture of inclusion are part of Laurier’s core values and central to the Laurier Strategy. Laurier is committed to increasing the diversity of faculty and staff and welcomes applications from candidates who identify as Indigenous, racialized, having disabilities, and from persons of any minority sexual and gender identities. Indigenous candidates who would like to learn more about equity and inclusive programing at Laurier are welcomed to contact the Office of Indigenous Initiatives. Candidates from other equity seeking groups who would like to learn more about equity and inclusive programing at Laurier are welcomed to contact Equity & Accessibility. We have strived to make our application process accessible, however if you require any assistance applying for a position or would like this job posting in an alternative format, please contact Human Resources. Contact information can be found at careers.wlu.ca/content/How-to-Apply/.

Consideration of candidates, by the search committee, will begin in late March 2021. For further information and the full executive briefing document, please contact Jessa Chupik and Michael Naufal at jchupik@boyden.com.