

LAURIER



Inspiring Lives!

**Enhancement and Creation of New
Diploma to Degree Pathways Between
Conestoga College Institute of
Technology and Advanced Learning**

&

Wilfrid Laurier University

Executive Summary

**Prepared for the Ontario Council on Articulation and
Transfer (ONCAT)**

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Executive Summary

This project sought to enhance existing and create new academic pathways for students located at the Brantford campuses of Wilfrid Laurier University (“Laurier”) and Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning (“Conestoga”). The goal for this project was to create a transferable model that could be used with other institutions and in other communities. The two main components of this project were to: 1) identify fully the opportunities for joint academic and shared administrative services/infrastructure in Brantford; and 2) create tools and models that can expedite/facilitate new partnerships and joint programming across Ontario’s post-secondary education system.

To identify opportunities for shared administrative services and infrastructure on the Brantford campuses, executive bodies from Laurier and Conestoga have been working to draft collaboration agreements to append to the Memorandum of Understanding that was signed in 2013. These agreements will take a detailed look into the collaboration of academics, student services, operations and administration, as well as will set financial principles to guide the relationship.

In the original proposal for this project, six partnerships were listed as potential areas to be explored for collaborative programming that would build upon the strengths of both institutions. Discussions between Conestoga and Laurier confirmed that it was an opportune time to develop two of the joint programs and two of the integrated programs. The two joint programs that were developed are Conestoga’s Human Resources Management post-graduate certificate with Laurier’s Human Rights and Human Diversity degree and Conestoga’s Human Resources Management and Community and Social Services Management post-graduate certificates with Laurier’s Health Administration degree. The two integrated programs that were developed are Conestoga’s Contemporary Media Arts graduate certificate with Laurier’s Digital Media and Journalism degree and Conestoga’s Game Design courses with Laurier’s Game Design and Development degree. Additionally, the process has been initiated for an additional three other programs, which are detailed in a confidential appendix to the project’s final report.

While exploring opportunities for academic partnerships, tools and models were drafted and developed to help expedite and facilitate joint programming. The main focus was to use the joint and integrated programs being implemented as “trial runs” to create transferable models for programs that are hoped to be launched in the future. Through the process of implementing the collaborative programs, many areas from both institutions were connected with, including Human Resources, Faculty Relations, Finance, the Office of the Registrar, student unions, Library, the bookstore, student services, the Residence Life Office, Information Technology services, and Recruitment and Admissions. Also, best practices were identified, including the establishment of a living document that encapsulates the roles and responsibilities of the Registrar’s Offices, the establishment of a Steering Committee for each program and the need for separate faculty and student orientations. Templates and copies of the service processes have been appended to the final report for use as a transferable model in Ontario’s post-secondary education system.