



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

UWinnipeg Excels in Globe & Mail National Survey on Universities: Straight 'A's in Education & Undergraduate Studies

WINNIPEG—Today's *Globe & Mail 2005 Report Card* gives The University of Winnipeg an overall 'A' grade in the area of Education:

Teaching Quality: A-

Class Sizes: A+

Faculty-Student Interaction: A-

Faculty Availability Outside Classroom Hours: A-

"Ranking among Canada's best in the area of education is a testament to The University of Winnipeg's commitment to its core mission" said UWinnipeg President Lloyd Axworthy. "What happens in the classroom between student and teacher provides a solid foundation for future successes in career and life—and UWinnipeg faculty is clearly doing a fantastic job."

Canada's undergraduate students have signaled their support for the University's commitment to access, excellence, and community, giving UWinnipeg an 'A-' grade for 'academic reputation' and an 'A' for 'reputation for undergraduate studies.' Student responses (a 'B+' in 'reputation of university among employers) indicate that they are finding a warm reception among employers who recognize the quality preparation provided by The University of Winnipeg.

Maintaining its reputation for 'tolerance of diverse opinions/ideas,' The University of Winnipeg received an 'A' grade in this area. Combining the University's traditional strengths in the classroom with new investments and a renewed focus on online resources and classroom technology, garnered The University of Winnipeg a 'B+' overall in the category of 'Technology.'

'Ease of registration' at The University of Winnipeg is being aggressively addressed with the procurement of a new Student Information System (SIS). Expected to be online for Fall 2006 registration, the new SIS will facilitate online registration, online fee payment, and access to grades online. With the University's new Student Central, students will now find streamlined services with wait times reduced, access to information simplified and services centrally located.

A recent modest increase in student ancillary fees (an average additional \$25 per FCE) has resulted in an additional \$180,000 in awards and financial aid of which \$60,000 of new funds supplement each of the Student Access Awards, President's Bursary Fund, and the Academic Proficiency Scholarships. An upcoming Campaign has a major focus on increasing endowments to scholarships and bursaries. The recently launched fundraising Campaign among faculty, staff, and retirees—devoted to a robust scholarship and bursary program—is well on its way to achieving its \$1 Million target.

‘Accommodation’ and ‘Overall Quality of Off-Campus Environment,’ which earned satisfactory scores in the survey, are being addressed by the University’s participatory Campus Redevelopment Plan process—led by the University’s recently-established Community Renewal Corporation. While students gave a relatively positive score of ‘B’ for ‘sense of personal safety/security,’ the University’s new Campus Community Ambassador program—the first volunteer program of its kind in North America—reinforces the downtown inner-city University’s commitment to safety for its students, faculty, staff, and community. The province’s suburban university received a comparable rating of A-.

“We want to ensure that The University of Winnipeg experience is exceptional on all fronts from faculty/student interaction to services for students to housing; therefore, we take seriously student satisfaction measurements of this kind,” said Rob Bend, Associate Vice-President (Academic) Student Services. “The commitment of UWinnipeg faculty and staff to student growth and actualization is evident in this survey and on our campus every day.”

The Globe & Mail 2005 Report Card is based on results from responses to more than 80 questions from 26,198 undergraduate students, all current full- or part-time, who are members of the studentawards.com online database.

Located in the heart of downtown, The University of Winnipeg is a compact, diverse, multicultural academic community committed to access and excellence. Ranked by our graduates in Maclean's magazine University Graduate Survey (November 15, 2004) in the Top Ten of all Canadian universities when asked about their “Entire Educational Experience.” UWinnipeg is home to more than 8,900 full- and part-time students.

- 30 -

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