



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

World Council for Gifted and Talented Children Selects UWinnipeg for International Headquarters

WINNIPEG—The internationally renowned World Council for Gifted and Talented Children (WCGTC) has chosen the University of Winnipeg for its new home base, marking the first time its headquarters has been located outside the United States.

In making the announcement, Dr. Klaus Urban, University of Hannover and World Council President, said UWinnipeg's background in gifted education and experience played an important role in its selection as host for the international network of educators dedicated to further worldwide development of gifted education.

"The University of Winnipeg has the ability to support the World Council's purpose and goals. The University's international approach—through its Global College—fits nicely into the activities of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children," Urban said.

"The World Council for Gifted and Talented Children is an incredible resource," said Ken McCluskey, UWinnipeg Associate Dean of Education, "It brings together the gifted global community of educators, scholars, researchers, parents, educational institutions, and others interested in the development of gifted and talented youth. The University of Winnipeg is honoured to be the new headquarters for the World Council for Gifted & Talented Children."

"This announcement today testifies to the international renown of The University of Winnipeg's Bachelor of Education Program," said Lloyd Axworthy, University President, "and the University's mission to develop global citizens. Having the World Council headquartered on our campus underscores the University's commitment to access, education research, and to gifted education and the preparation of gifted educators."

The World Council for Gifted and Talented Children began modestly as an idea of Henry Collis, a prominent British educator of the gifted. He envisioned a conference on gifted education, which would unite an international body of educators. The first meeting was held in London, England in 1975.

In 1977, the organization was established as a representative worldwide association at the second world conference convened in San Francisco. A secretariat was established at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York in 1979. The headquarters were most recently located in Northridge, California.

The headquarters for the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children will move to The University of Winnipeg August 31, 2005.

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 8,700 full- and part-time students.

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Backgrounder

The purpose of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children (WCGTC) is to focus world attention on gifted and talented children and ensure the realization of their valuable potential to the benefit of humankind through the following means:

- Assemble, for an exchange of ideas and experiences, people from all over the world interested in gifted and talented children.
- Create a climate of acceptance and recognition that gifted and talented children are a valuable global asset whether disabled or able bodied, from advantaged or disadvantaged backgrounds, or from developing or developed countries.
- Initiate, conduct, and support research into the nature of giftedness, talents, creativity, and the education and development of gifted and talented children; disseminate the findings of this research and provide a database for members and researchers.
- Establish means for a continuing worldwide exchange of ideas, experiences, and teaching and teacher-training techniques relevant to gifted and talented children.
- Persuade governments to recognize gifted children as a category for special attention in normal educational programs, and to cooperate with national and other organizations for gifted and talented children who share these purposes.
- Design activities that bring together gifted and talented children worldwide.
- Encourage parent and family education and support to enhance all children's potential.

The World Council for Gifted and Talented Children is a diverse organization networking the globe with an active membership of approximately 800 educators, scholars, researchers, parents, educational institutions, and others interested in giftedness from over 50 countries. In addition to individual members, affiliated federations include the Asia-Pacific Federation, the Ibero-American Federation, National Association for Able Children in Education (NACE-UK), the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC-USA), and the Youth Talent Development of R.O.C. (Taiwan.)

For more information please visit: www.worldgifted.org

Dr. Ken McCluskey

Associate Dean and Professor in the Bachelor of Education Program, McCluskey has had 25 years experience as a school psychologist, special educator, and administrator in the public school system. A recipient of the Canadian Council of Exceptional Children's Joan Kershaw Publications Award and the University of Winnipeg's Teaching Excellence and Community Service Awards, he has written over 100 professional articles and chapters, and is the author, co-author, or editor of a dozen books, including *The Doubtful Gift: Strategies for Educating Gifted Children in the Regular Classroom*, *Lost Prizes: Talent Development and Problem Solving with At-Risk Students*, and *Understanding ADHD: Our Personal Journey*.