

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**INCREASED DEMAND LEADS TO NEW FOUR-YEAR BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN BIOLOGY AT
ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

Calgary, AB (December 12, 2013) St. Mary's University College is pleased to announce it will offer a new four-year degree. The Alberta Ministry of Innovation and Advanced Education approved the four-year Bachelor of Science with a major in Biology. Drawing on the existing strength of St. Mary's in the Liberal Arts, students will be broadly educated, grounded, practically-minded thinkers able to work across and outside disciplinary boundaries.

"The Biology degree arrives at a perfect time for St. Mary's," said President, Dr. Gerry Turcotte. "Certainly we have record enrolments in science and unprecedented interest from students. But we are also building great partnerships with Fish Creek Provincial Park and making use of our extraordinary campus."

The Bachelor of Science with a major in Biology is unique in Alberta. According to Dr. Turcotte, "Although there are many Biology degree programs in Alberta, this program offers students opportunities not found at larger institutions. The degree draws on St. Mary's strengths in the liberal arts, the centrality of ethics and social justice to its mission, its small class size and intimate environment, and its proximity to and ties with Fish Creek Provincial Park."

Students pursuing this degree will be challenged to consider the effect of science on society, and the effect of society on scientific thinking. A vital component of this program will be ensuring that students recognize their responsibility to our community and our world.

This program prepares students for a wide array of careers, with roles from agriculture to biomedical laboratory research, from environmental consulting to veterinary medicine. Students completing this program can also pursue graduate work in biology, business, education, law, or medicine.

Students currently enrolled in the Biological Sciences Transfer program were thrilled to learn of the announcement of the degree. According to Dr. Mary Ann McLean, Associate Professor in Biology at St. Mary's, "The new Biology degree has been eagerly awaited by our students. When it was first announced, students were high fiving each other in class. The comment I hear most is that 'now I won't have to leave St Mary's to finish my degree!'"

About St. Mary's University College

St. Mary's University College is a Catholic Post-Secondary, student-focused liberal arts and sciences teaching and research institution in Calgary. St. Mary's offers Bachelor of Arts degrees, a Bachelor of Education (Elementary) degree, and courses in 35 academic disciplines. For more information, visit www.stmu.ca

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