

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Mary's Announces a New Liberal Studies Degree, the First of its Kind of Alberta

Calgary, AB (September 10, 2013) St. Mary's University College is pleased to announce the offering of a new four-year degree program effective September 1, 2013. The Alberta Ministry of Enterprise and Advanced Education has given approval for a four-year (120 credit) Bachelor of Arts with a major in Liberal Studies. It is the first degree of its kind in Alberta. The program has been designed specifically for the 21st century student and job market.

"This is the first program of its kind in Alberta and we predict that it will quickly become one of our most sought-after degrees," said Dr. Gerry Turcotte, President of St. Mary's University College. "It offers real-world training and applications, broad interdisciplinary knowledge and the opportunity to focus on a specific concentration in one of eleven areas such as Drama, Family Studies, Business and Management Studies, Sociology or Science, to name just a few. It's an exciting and dynamic addition to our suite of degrees."

Students entering university today are often interested in a number of subject areas or have yet to make a decision on their chosen field. This program allows students the maximum flexibility to discover and pursue their interests while completing a four-year degree. Also, young people today are unlikely to have one job for their entire work life. Instead they are more likely to pursue a career path that will require the application of job skills in a number of positions. Dr. Linda Henderson, Associate Professor of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Studies at St. Mary's, who was instrumental in developing the degree proposal states, "We know that the most marketable work skills for people entering the work force today include the ability to think critically, communicate effectively and gather and analyze information. The Liberal Studies program has been designed specifically to develop and enhance these skills so that students will have the greatest diversity in possible career paths."

Students completing the Liberal Studies program will be able to pursue many career paths including journalism, management, marketing, public relations, human resources, education, social services, research and analysis, government and industry. The program also provides an excellent foundation for further studies at the graduate level in a number of fields and for professional programs including law.

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 34 academic disciplines. For more information, visit www.stmu.ca

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