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Press release

For immediate release

State-of-the-art training for durable structural steelwork

Québec City, April 30, 2015 – To stress the historical contribution of metal structure specialist André Picard, Université Laval is creating a Chair in Educational Leadership (CEL) on Structural Steelwork. Developed as a direct response to the needs of Québec businesses, the André-Picard CEL on Structural Steelwork will contribute state-of-the-art expertise on the design and maintenance of steel and aluminum structures.

The Québec Bridge and its hundred-year-old metal framework clearly illustrate the timeliness of the CEL, which will train the next generation of experts in metal structure maintenance and rebuilding. The life cycle of steel structure, sustainable steel bridges, and the thorny issue of metal corrosion are some of the topics members of the Chair will cover.

“The Chair will foster learning of the fundamental principles of designing structures and engineered constructions using steel in a multimaterial and sustainable development context,” noted Faculty of Science and Engineering dean André Darveau.

Backed by 10 professors, a technician in steel structure, and modern lab facilities, the new CEL will offer students top-notch pedagogical support. “We’ll be able to adapt and create pedagogical tools such as complex simulations and mock-ups,” said Mario Fafard, a researcher in the Civil and Water Engineering Department.

The CEL on Structural Steelwork will be closely linked to various professional and socioeconomic networks to optimize knowledge transfer in the community and meet the needs of Québec society and its numerous metal structures.

“The new CEL will allow us to provide training that’s better tailored to the job market in a strategic field with sizeable labour needs in Québec,” added Bernard Garnier, Vice Rector for Academic and International Activities.

“The introduction of this Chair in Educational Leadership on Structural Steelwork gives CISC and the steel industry the opportunity to take part in an initiative that also demonstrates their dedication to providing support and incentives to get the industry

involved in education and research about steel,” said Hellen Christodoulou, Québec Regional Manager at the Canadian Institute of Steel Construction.

The new CEL was made possible thanks to the financial support of a number of important stakeholders from the private sector, including Beauce Atlas, CANAM-Bridges, CIMA+, SAFI Quality Software, and Supermétal. The Canadian Institute of Steel Construction (CISC-Québec), Ministère des Transports du Québec, and the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering also contribute financially to the CEL, which also draws on the support of graduates and members of the industry.

The Chair in Educational Leadership on Structural Steelwork will be named after André Picard, a widely esteemed specialist from the Université Laval Civil and Water Engineering Department who passed away in 2008. An eminent teacher with an unparalleled knack for explaining complex concepts in simple terms, André Picard has been a source of inspiration for many reference works. With Denis Beaulieu, André Picard also co-authored the first French-language book on structural steelwork.

About the Chair in Educational Leadership program

The Université Laval Chair in Educational Leadership (CEL) program was unveiled in the spring of 2011. Created in partnership with the socioeconomic community, each CEL is a place of pedagogical innovation where scientific and technological advancements are integrated and adapted to the needs of students. To date, 22 CELs have been created to meet specific training needs in the areas of business administration, science and engineering, theology and religious studies, social sciences, education, and agriculture and food sciences.

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