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**NEW GOVERNOR GENERAL-DESIGNATE'S STRONG
UWC CONNECTIONS**

Julie Payette served on Victoria-based Pearson College UWC Board

[Victoria] – Canada's Governor General-Designate, Julie Payette O.C., Q.C., has strong connections to Victoria's Pearson College UWC and is a long-time supporter of the UWC (United World Colleges) mission to make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future.

The 53-year-old Montrealer, a former astronaut who speaks six languages, served on the volunteer Pearson Board of Directors between 2010 and 2013 and graduated from UWC Atlantic College in Wales in 1982. Pearson and Atlantic colleges are the two original members of the global UWC network of 150 national committees and seventeen schools (<http://www.uwc.org/schools>).

"Mme Payette is a fantastic role model for all young Canadians, particularly for women and girls," says Tony Macoun, Chair of the Pearson College Board of Directors and co-chair of the UWC National Committee of Canada. "She is an inspiration, not only for her remarkable career achievements in science, technology and space exploration, but also for the global perspective she brings to her new role.

"This would have been instilled in her at a young age through her UWC education -- living and learning alongside students from around the world, and through her continuing support of organizations such as Pearson College. This ongoing commitment to the UWC's mission will serve her well in this new role."

"Mme. Payette reflects the very best of Canada and embodies the [values](#) of the UWC movement that reflect service to the community, intercultural understanding and challenging one's self," says Désirée McGraw, President and Head of Pearson College UWC. "We are so proud that she began her journey of leadership and accomplishment at our sister UWC Atlantic College and continues to this day to support the UWC mission."

Payette was named 29th governor general of Canada today at an announcement hosted by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in Ottawa.

650 Pearson College Drive, Victoria BC, Canada, V9C 4H7

P: +1 250 391 2411 E: info@pearsoncollege.ca

www.pearsoncollege.ca



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One of Canada's first astronauts, a veteran of two flights to the International Space Station, Payette honoured the then-upcoming 50th anniversary of the founding of the UWC in 2009 by taking the UWC flag into space on a mission to the ISS. The flag was subsequently presented to UWC Atlantic College.

In the mid-1980s, shortly after becoming a UWC alumna, Payette volunteered with the provincial arm of the UWC National Committee of Canada in Québec. National Committees in Canada (www.ca.uwc.org) and more than 150 countries around the world, play a key role in selecting some of the world's best and brightest students to attend UWC schools.

About Pearson College UWC

Pearson College UWC (www.pearsoncollege.ca) is Canada's most globally-minded pre-university school and draws accomplished young leaders and change-makers, ages 16-19, from up to than 150 countries and every province and territory of Canada. With an enrolment of up to 200 select students, Pearson offers scholarships to the majority of its students and a curriculum based on the International Baccalaureate (IB) program and an experiential approach to education requiring creativity, action and service. Students live and learn together on a residential campus on Pedder Bay on the traditional territory of the Scia'new (Beecher Bay) First Nation.

The College opened in 1974 in honour of Prime Minister and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Lester B. Pearson who sought to create a United World College in Canada. The College recruits a deliberately diverse student body – including young people from across Canada, regions of conflict and challenging socio-economic circumstances- to encourage future leaders to learn and live together as they bring about meaningful changes in their communities, their countries and indeed the world.

This year, the College is celebrating the 60th anniversary of Mr. Pearson being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in helping create the first United Nations peacekeeping force, and defusing the 1956 Suez Crisis. In his Nobel Prize Lecture, Mr. Pearson asked, "How can there be peace without people understanding each other, and how can this be if they don't know each other?"

About the Governor General of Canada

Julie Payette will succeed academic, author, and statesman David Lloyd Johnston, CC CMM COM CD FRSC FRCPSC, as governor general. The governor general, appointed by the Queen on the advice of the prime minister for a five-year term, acts as the Queen's representative in Canada, serves as commander-in-chief of the Canadian Armed Forces and represents Canada at events, ceremonies and official visits at home and abroad.

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For more information, please contact:

Brian Geary

Director of Communications

bgeary@pearsoncollege.ca

Office: 250 391 2419

Nikola Mende

Communications Officer

nmende@pearsoncollege.ca

Office: 250 391 2479