

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **University launches UTAS College Project**

A UTAS College will be developed by the University of Tasmania over the next 12 months to improve access for all Tasmanians to higher education and to nurture bright students by enabling the fast-tracking of their university studies.

UTAS Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Provost Professor David Rich will today launch the UTAS College project and announce the appointment of former Faculty of Education Dean Ms Megan Cavanagh-Russell into the newly created position of UTAS College Planning Dean to oversee the project's development.

The UTAS College will:

- strengthen pathways to UTAS for students at secondary college or school who already aspire to university.
- give highly talented students a range of opportunities to fast-track their university education at UTAS.
- provide university preparation for mature-age students who have not had a chance to complete their secondary education.
- encourage students to progress to university by demonstrating the value of a university degree in a contemporary workforce.

Professor Rich said UTAS, as the only university in Tasmania, was in a unique position to develop a distinctive and personalised higher education model for Tasmanian students. The model will provide them with the opportunity to experience UTAS in their schools and their communities.

“The UTAS College project demonstrates our commitment to give all Tasmanian students the very best opportunity to reach their full potential and we believe that this

commitment starts by engaging and working with students and adults well before they embark on their university education,” he said.

Professor Rich said UTAS College would be developed collaboratively and engage with other education bodies in Tasmania. It will link with the State Government’s *Tasmania Tomorrow* strategy, as well as with individual colleges, both public and private, and other educational providers.

“The UTAS College is first and foremost a suite of programs designed to improve access to and experience of higher education in Tasmania. Its final structure will depend on the outcome of consultations and pilot projects over the next 12 months,” he said.

Ms Cavanagh- Russell said UTAS College would harness many of the individual student support and acceleration programs already in place in UTAS, and extend opportunities for students, both school leavers and adults.

“UTAS has made a strong commitment to improving access to higher education for all Tasmanian students and I am delighted to be able to lead such a ground-breaking project that will deliver results for the University and the wider community,” she said.

Ms Cavanagh-Russell’s new role is concurrent with her existing position as Director of the Cradle Coast campus.

\* **REVISED MEDIA PLAN:**

Professor David Rich and Ms Megan Cavanagh-Russell will be available for comment at the Launceston campus today between 1.30pm and 2pm. Please contact the Media Office to arrange an interview.

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