

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Tasmanian industry stalwart to advance University College into new era of education and training

A well-respected North-West industry leader, education advocate and innovator will take charge of the University of Tasmania University College from March.

Mr Lee Whiteley has been appointed to the new role of Chief Executive, a key position that will further drive the College as a competitive, world-class course provider.

First graduating from TAFE as an automotive electrician more than 30 years ago, Mr Whiteley has become one of the most respected industry figures in Tasmania.

Acting University Vice-Chancellor Professor Mike Calford said Mr Whiteley's extensive background would enhance his capacity as the new Chief Executive of the College.

"In many ways, Lee's life and career embody ideas which have been central to our University's thinking in recent years," Professor Calford said.

"He is an exemplar of the transformative power of education. Over many years, he has used this principle to lift others into new, more prosperous futures.

"Lee demonstrates that with the right opportunities and settings, Tasmanians - wherever they may be - can build and be part of enterprises which are world class.

"His notable experience across industry and well-established ties both locally and abroad will play a crucial role in expanding and developing new education and training partnerships offered by the College."

Most recently holding the positions of Executive General Manager at Elphinstone Pty Ltd and Managing Director of Southern Prospect, Mr Whiteley brings with him more than 20 years of global experience in senior manufacturing roles.

He also possesses a long association with the University of Tasmania as an education advocate through his participation in institution-led advisory boards and as a former Adjunct Lecturer at the Cradle Coast campus.

Additionally, Mr Whiteley has helped transition regional skilled workforces from traditional to advanced manufacturing sectors through his involvement in the Caterpillar Transition Taskforce, while extending Tasmania's competitive industry profile on the international stage.

Professor Calford said the University College was poised to play an increasingly vital role in the future of Tasmania.

"As Lee joins our institution, we must also commend the work of outgoing Principal Professor Janelle Allison for her crucial role in driving the establishment of the University College and her work to date," he said.

"She has been integral in breaking down barriers to education in non-traditional cohorts while fostering partnerships across government, industries and business that have resulted in a diversity of courses now offered by the College.

"Fittingly, both Janelle and Lee have an extensive working history of working together through various University partnerships and projects; experience that will undoubtedly position Lee to provide continuity within the College while building upon its existing foundations."

Mr Whiteley said it was an exciting time to be joining the institution and looked forward to extending the reach and impact of the University College.

"The College has an important part to play in the University's vision to increase educational attainment and transform regional communities," Mr Whiteley said.

"Whether it is providing a pathway for students who may not have pursued a university education, or working with industry to lift employees to the next level, the College is full of promise for Tasmania.

"I am honoured to be appointed to this role, and look forward to imparting my knowledge and experience in a way that evolves the University College and forges new opportunities and that inspire Tasmanians to reach their full potential through further education."

Information released by:

University of Tasmania, Communications and Media Office

Phone: 61 3 6324 3218

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au