

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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University focuses best minds on Tasmanian education

The world's best educational minds will explore the world's best educational systems with a view to improving our own in a major symposium to be held in Tasmania next month.

In a year that has seen unparalleled focus on education in Tasmania, including the successful Hothouse experiment leading into DarkMOFO, the symposium provides the community with another opportunity to take part in the conversation.

Registrations are now open for *The Transformative Nature of Education: Underpinning social and economic transformations*, which will examine the transformative nature of education and its impacts on society and the economy.

University of Tasmania Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students and Education) Professor David Sadler said the symposium would set the scene for the work of the recently announced Peter Underwood Centre for Educational Attainment.

The Underwood Centre, developed by the University in partnership with the Tasmanian Government, is a multidisciplinary centre of excellence focused on improving pre-tertiary educational aspirations, participation and attainment.

The Centre will look at ways in which education underpins individual, societal and economic well-being and progress, with the intention of applying findings in Tasmania.

"The symposium will focus and amplify that work; it will ask, what do the best pre-tertiary education systems look like internationally?" Professor Sadler said.

"Discussion will focus on strategies for success in raising educational aspirations, participation and attainment as well as global trends in pre-tertiary education."

The symposium will bring together the pre-eminent thinkers globally on the topic of education as the catalyst for social and economic advancement.

Drawing on international research and case studies from countries around the world, it will provide a high level forum to exchange ideas and examine what has worked and why.

Symposium speakers include top international thinkers, educators and policy makers such as Andreas Schleicher (Director for Education and Skills, and Special Advisor on Education Policy to the Secretary-General, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and

Development), Tom Bentley, Education Advisor to the Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation, Oxford University Professor Ian Menter and Henry de Sio who helped run US President Obama's 2008 election campaign, as well as intentionally renowned Australian experts.

"Through bringing together the best minds from around the world to discuss the best approaches to educational transformation internationally, we have a real opportunity to set the scene for educational and economic transformation in Tasmania," Professor Sadler said.

The symposium will run from 5pm Tuesday 14 July 2015 – 3pm Thursday 16 July 2015.

Registrations are now open, with discount rates offered for University staff, the Department of Education, TasTAFE and other State Government employees.

More information is available from <http://www.educationtransforms.com.au>

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