

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Education Transforms: University of Tasmania to host international symposium

The power of education to transform lives and communities will be explored at an international symposium hosted by the University of Tasmania next week (July 14 -16).

Education Transforms will focus on education as a key determinant of social and economic transformation in regional economies and societies.

The event will share the latest research and case studies in best-practice pre-tertiary education and strategies for boosting aspiration, participation and attainment, and examine how these can be applied in Tasmania.

The symposium will be held under the mantle of The Peter Underwood Centre for Educational Attainment, established in the name of the former Tasmanian governor. The centre was launched in February to investigate and unlock factors restricting Tasmanian students from achieving their full educational potential.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students and Education) Professor David Sadler said the gathering was an important next step in the state's quest to increase participation in higher education.

"Education remains Tasmania's greatest challenge, in terms of driving the uptake of pre-tertiary and tertiary education, and equipping our young people to deal with the future challenges of our island economy," he said.

"The Peter Underwood Centre aims to bring into focus possible solutions for this situation.

"This event brings together some of the sharpest minds from around the globe who are working to solve similar conundrums, and provides an opportunity for us to learn from them."

More than 160 educators, along with those from related sectors, from throughout Australia and overseas will attend the symposium.

Keynote speakers include Barack Obama's 2008 election campaign Chief Operating Officer Henry De Sio, Oxford University Professor of Education Professor Ian Menter; Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Education Advisor Tom Bentley; and NSW Rooty Hill High School principal Christine Cawsey AM.

Other sessions will include exploring ways to take forward the ideas generated at last month's Hothouse collaboration, a think-tank which looked at ways to tackle the issues affecting Tasmania's education outcomes.

The *Education Transforms* symposium will be hosted in partnership with the State Government at Hobart's Wrest Point from Tuesday to Thursday, July 14-16.

For the full program and more information or to register for the symposium, visit www.educationtransforms.com.au

Information released by:

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