

**PROFESSOR HEATHER (JEANNIE) HERBERT AM**  
**Citation for the conferral of the title of Emeritus Professor**

Professor Jeannie Herbert was recruited to the position of Foundation Chair of Indigenous Studies at Charles Sturt University in 2009. Prior to taking up this position, her long engagement with the sector included:

- Director of the Oorala Aboriginal Centre at the University of New England in New South Wales in 1996-97.
- Between 1996 and 2006, at James Cook University, she held the positions of Director, Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Participation, Research and Development; Head of the School of Indigenous Australian Studies; and Foundation Chair of Indigenous Australian Studies.
- In 2006, Professor Herbert took up the position of Director of the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education in the Northern Territory. In 2007, the Institute's Council appointed her Vice-Chancellor of the Institute – the first Indigenous Vice-Chancellor in Australia.

All remarkable achievements for a woman born and raised in the Kimberly region of Western Australia, and who graduated as a primary school teacher in 1963.

After leaving home at the age of 12 to attend high school in Geraldton, then being awarded a scholarship (teaching bursary) to attend teachers college, Professor Herbert taught in many places – including Shark Bay, Katanning and Broome in Western Australia; Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean; Bougainville in Papua New Guinea; Saudi Arabia; and various locations in north Queensland.

After completing her Masters degree, and vowing not to undertake further study, Professor Herbert commenced her PhD with the focus on Indigenous success in education. She was influenced by her personal experience as a school teacher. I quote from Professor Herbert in speaking about her PhD: *"I had been a teacher for a long time – teaching in many different places and teaching many Indigenous students. I was tired of hearing all those stereotypes around Indigenous failure! So I decided to undertake a study that would reveal the truth about Indigenous success in education."*

Professor Herbert completed her PhD in 2003. By this time she had already been appointed to senior positions at James Cook University. In recognition of her “*research, teaching and leadership, and her significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge in Indigenous education and to the advancement of JCU as a provider of Indigenous Higher Education*”, Professor Herbert was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Educational Studies from the University in 2008.

Many accolades have been bestowed on Professor Herbert:

- She was awarded the prestigious Betty Watts Award by the Australian Association for Research in Education in 2005. Her paper was entitled “Owning the Discourse: Seizing the Power!”.
- She was also named as a ‘Respected Person’ at the 2008 World Indigenous Peoples’ Conference on Education for her work as an “Education Warrior”; and
- As a Dare to Lead Ambassador for Indigenous Education at the 2010 National Principals Australia Incorporated/Dare To Lead Annual Conference in recognition of her work in Indigenous education.

Professor Herbert has continued her research and collaborative approach in her appointments at Charles Sturt University. She was a member of the research teams for two ARC projects between 2006 and 2010 – the findings providing valuable knowledge in the aspirations, motivations and learning strategies of involuntary minorities in Australia and North America.

She was a member of a 2012 collaborative partnership that considered the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership standards 1.4 & 2.4 and developed “*A unit outline and content for professional learning units to support teachers in meeting Focus Areas 1.4 & 2.4, Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership*”, February, 2013.

Professor Herbert was a member of the research team that was awarded an Office of Learning and Teaching funded project from 2013 to 2015, entitled ‘*Curricular Approaches to increasing Cultural Competence and Indigenous Participation in Psychology Education and Training*’.

Through her trademark Collaborative Conversations approach, Professor Herbert engaged closely with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders from many Communities and provided them with an avenue to new learning and new self-growth. She has said of this approach: *“When I am working with community groups, whether inside the University or externally, I use this process. In general, it results in a positive engagement once we have discussed the meaning of collaboration, the idea of a conversation and the value of respecting one another. In acknowledging the need for mutual respect, we can begin to appreciate and accept that everyone sees the world a different way.”*

In 2012 she became a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia for her "service to tertiary education, particularly through improvements to educational outcomes for Indigenous people, and to the delivery of learning opportunities across regional and remote northern Australia". In 2016 RMIT bestowed on her the Outstanding Alumnus (Australia) award.

Most recently, Professor Herbert has contributed and steered very significant projects within Charles Sturt University, including:

- reviewing the Universities performance against its Australia Indigenous Strategy 2017-2020;
- building the Indigenous research agenda at the University to a new level of quality and intensity;
- resetting the benchmarks for the Indigenous Education Strategy; and,
- reviewing the Indigenous Academic Fellow Program to critically examine its successes and challenges.

During her tenure Professor Herbert has made an outstanding and exemplary contribution to the University and the wider community as an academic, a leader and an influencer. Her teaching, research and collaboration has empowered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples through engagement in their education.

Professor Herbert retired as Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Education at Charles Sturt University – a position she was appointed to in 2014.

Charles Sturt University, and the other universities where she has been employed, have significantly benefitted from her expertise, leadership, and generosity. The University has enormous respect for Professor Herbert's contributions. She has been an outstanding role model and is deserving of the title of Emeritus Professor.

**Dated this Sixteenth Day of September Two Thousand and Nineteen**