

## **GEOFF HONEY**

### **Citation for the conferral of a Doctor of Business (*honoris causa*)**

Mr Geoff Honey provided 34 years' service to Charles Sturt University and its predecessor institutions starting work for the Riverina College of Advanced Education as a junior clerk in 1982 and rising to lead the University's Division of Student Administration as Executive Director in 2003, a position which he held until his untimely death in May 2016.

In addition, Mr Honey applied his leadership and mentoring abilities to the University sector more broadly through his commitment to the New South Wales University Admissions Centre and Heads of Student Administration over a period of 20 years. Through his active participation in these associations Mr Honey was able to have a significant impact on changing public policy in this area. He contributed to significant technological transformations and changed public culture to ensure that higher education was equitable and accessible to all Australians. In this regard, Mr Honey has left his mark.

Mr Honey set a standard of personal and professional integrity in his life to which his colleagues aspired. He was relied upon for his in-depth knowledge and understanding of student issues and for his focus on student outcomes.

Mr Honey's long term active contribution to his profession saw him as a leader and mentor for colleagues in a range of tertiary education sector associations. He chaired several University Admissions Centre committees and was an ex officio Director on the Centre's Board from 2003 to 2005. Through this involvement, Mr Honey was a key contributor to the development and expansion of centralised admissions throughout New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory since the mid 1990's.

Within Charles Sturt University, Mr Honey used his role on committees including Academic Senate and the University Courses Planning Committee to drive reforms, particularly in terms of regulations that govern the student experience, and to provide guidance and advice on issues in the area of university student administration. He harnessed the breadth of his experience to make a number of major contributions to the development of processes and systems in order to respond to change and evolving structures. He led the implementation of transformative initiatives designed to improve the University and the student experience, including end-of-year graduation ceremonies; the introduction of the three session academic calendar; and the establishment of Student Central, whilst maintaining the integrity and reliability of student administration systems.

Mr Honey was able to analyse the need for change to ensure alignment with an evolving sector and institutional requirements. During his time as Executive Director, he managed the challenges of bringing administrative units inherited from predecessor institutions into Charles Sturt University's 'One University' philosophy. He successfully managed the pressures that are inherent with a geographically diverse university, with multiple regional campuses across New South Wales, in Canberra, and Sydney to provide a seamless experience for students, staff and other key stakeholders.

Mr Honey's ability to manage these changes successfully saw other sector leaders seeking to emulate processes and procedures that he had initiated at Charles Sturt University, particularly around university entry schemes and admissions processes. His involvement in the University Admissions Centre processes, procedures and administration provided a great model of influence adopted by others for use in other states.

Mr Honey always took a collaborative, sector approach to problem solving and had an ability to see issues from the perspective of others. In this way he was an active mentor to many including those new to the profession.

Mr Honey's profound understanding of regional tertiary education and first-hand knowledge of the difficulties and challenges students face going to university, combined with his commitment to ensuring their needs and aspirations were always at the forefront, generated the best outcomes for students. He was generous and understanding in his dealings with people and strongly focussed on the needs of students and on ensuring that administrative processes and systems worked effectively for all.

Mr Honey was also a generous and long-time supporter of Charles Sturt University's Give program which funds scholarships for students. In recognition of his ongoing support the University's Foundation Trust will award an annual scholarship in Mr Honey's honour, the 'Geoff Honey Memorial Scholarship'.

Vice-Chancellor, it is with great pleasure that I present to you, Mrs Cheryl Honey, to receive the award Doctor of Business (*honoris causa*) conferred posthumously on her husband, Mr Geoff Honey.

**Dated this Fifteenth Day of December Two Thousand and Sixteen**