

LARS KARLSSON

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

Pro Chancellor, it is a privilege to present to you and to this gathering, for the award of Doctor of Education (*honoris causa*), Mr Lars Karlsson.

Mr Karlsson is internationally recognised as the architect of contemporary approaches to customs compliance management and customs capacity building, and founded the formal link between the World Customs Organisation and academia which has led to the international accreditation of customs degree programs.

Mr Karlsson is globally recognised for his unparalleled contributions to the professional practice of customs.

He is widely acclaimed as the architect of the world's first partnership program between customs and the trading community. The 'Stairway' program, as it is known, which was developed by Mr Karlsson in the late 1990s, represented a revolutionary approach to regulatory compliance management that is now being adopted by over 160 countries. In fact, The Department of Immigration and Border protection has recently developed a 'Trusted Trader' program which has its origins in Mr Karlsson's original model.

In his role as Director of Capacity Building at the World Customs Organisation, Mr Karlsson devised and introduced the most ambitious and successful international capacity building initiative in the history of customs. Known as the 'Columbus' program, it has formed the basis of reform, modernisation and development initiatives in over 120 countries around the globe, and is still in use today after ten years of successful operation.

Mr Karlsson is the architect of the World Customs Chief Officer's 'Partnership in Customs Academic Research and Development' program. This Program is highly relevant to Charles Sturt University, as it represents the formal linkage between the World Customs Organisation and the academic world. It has provided the basis for the development of academic standards for the customs profession and led to the accreditation of specialist university courses at the highest international level. Indeed, Charles Sturt University is proud to say that its customs-specific degrees were among the first to be formally accredited by the World Customs Organisation.

Pro Chancellor, I now present Mr Lars Karlsson, one of the most renowned customs leaders in the world who has made a significant contribution to the public good through his outstanding input and influence in the professional practice of customs education and capacity building.

Dated this Twenty Ninth Day of August Two Thousand and Sixteen