

Chancellor

I have the honour to present to you Mr Kevin Davis AM, who Council has determined should be awarded the degree of Doctor of Education *Honoris Causa*.

Kevin Davis grew up in Albany, Western Australia, where he completed high school and his Teacher's Certificate, before attending the University of Queensland to obtain his Bachelor of Education. He has subsequently attained a Master of Education from the University of New England. Kevin taught in several schools in Western Australia and NSW before moving to the Northern Territory in 1966 to take on the role of Principal of Shepherson College on Elcho Island. Later he was appointed the Katherine Regional Superintendent of Education for the NT Department of Education.

After other high level positions within the Department, Kevin was offered the position of inaugural Director of the Darwin Institute of Technology, the institution which had previously been known as Darwin Community College. Kevin arrived at DIT as tensions were flaring regarding the establishment of a University in the Territory. The Government at the time saw a University as integral to the social furniture of the territory but many staff of DIT opposed this, and the Commonwealth was refusing to support its creation, regarding the establishment as premature.

Kevin proceeded in his mission to calm these tensions, and gained acceptance from the staff at DIT, while implementing many structural and budgetary changes. Kevin was supportive of the notion to create a University, and in his role as Director, was appointed to a small group of officials to proceed with the planning for the new institution, which would be fully funded by the Northern Territory Government. This group opted to create a University College with the University of Queensland, that would provide courses, moderation and assessment. The University College of the Northern Territory opened in February 1987 with almost 250 enrolments. In the following year, however, legislation was introduced to the NT parliament to establish the Northern Territory University, merging the University College and DIT.

Kevin's major challenge was to guide and protect DIT throughout the merger– he was a very strong believer in a dual sector university. In order to retain both the Advanced Education and Vocational Education and Training programs as part of the new institution, he suggested that an Institute of Technical and Further Education be created within the University, which would make clear the boundaries between VET and higher education. Some years later, the Institute of TAFE was disbanded, as the concept of a dual sector university was both more fully understood and recognised on a national level.

Kevin was the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) of the Northern Territory University, when it opened its doors on 1 January 1989, and oversaw the massive capital development program on the Casuarina Campus. He established financial management procedures, and pioneered on-line enrolment at the University, making NTU one of the first institutions to implement this. He was the Founding Secretary of the CDU Foundation, and continued his involvement with the Foundation after his retirement in 2003, as a board member until 2012.

In his roles both as Director and DVC, he was a passionate supporter of the solar car project, and has been involved with the Darwin Symphony Orchestra since its inception. He has also been the editor of the Northern Perspective magazine, and played an integral role in the University's running of the NT Literary awards from 1992 until 2002. He received The Administrator's Medal for Outstanding service to the Darwin Symphony Orchestra in 1993, and was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2003 for Services to Education, particularly in the areas of Indigenous education and the arts.

Today, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the development of tertiary education in the Northern Territory through his leadership of the Darwin Institute of Technology and the Northern Territory University, Kevin Davis has been awarded by the Council of Charles Darwin University, the degree of Doctor of Education, Honoris Causa

Chancellor,

I present to you Mr. Kevin Davis, AM