

Citation for David John Klingberg AO

Graduation: Wednesday 1st April 2009, 10:30am



Officiator: Dr Ian Gould

Award recipient: Mr David John Klingberg AO
BTech (CivilEng), FTSE, FIEAust, FAusIMM, FAICD, KSJ

Award being conferred: Honorary Doctor of the University of South Australia (DUniv)

Citation delivered by: Professor Peter Lee
BE(Chem), PhD, FICChemE, FIEAust, CPEng

Chancellor, the University of South Australia awards the Honorary Doctorate Degree to a person of eminence who has made a distinguished contribution to the public service or a field of academic endeavour. It is my pleasure to present to you David John Klingberg AO for the honorary degree of 'Doctor of the University', in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the community and to the growth and development of the University of South Australia.

David Klingberg, an alumnus of the South Australian Institute of Technology and prominent engineer and businessman, was appointed to the honorary position of Chancellor of the University of South Australia in 1998.

Throughout his tenure as Chancellor over a ten year period, David made many significant contributions to the University. His business acumen, results-driven approach and attention to the bottom line put the University in a robust position for future growth and development. He quickly became known as one of the University's strongest champions of community partnerships and engagement.

Under David's leadership the University's brand evolved from being one the newest in the State to being one of substance and youth. Public recognition of the University consistently increased under David's stewardship as David himself embodied its core corporate values, namely that of industry engagement and societal conscience. His commitment to fostering relationships with opinion leaders and University alumni at both the local and international level further strengthened the University's presence at home and abroad.

The strong relationships and networks which have been established by David have also contributed to the success of a number of ambitious University projects, all of which have furthered the interests of our growing community.

As Chair of the Mawson Lakes Joint Venture, David has helped to transform the Mawson Lakes precinct from a small campus in a paddock to a bustling, self-contained community. He was a key stakeholder in the design of the Mawson Centre, designed for shared-use by the community, and was instrumental in raising community enthusiasm and funds for the Hawke building at our City West campus.

David has also been involved in the University Foundation, which was established in the early nineties to manage the University's philanthropic activities. With his help, the Foundation has raised

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approximately \$15 million over the last 10 years through fundraising, networking and events such as the annual Chancellor's Golf Classic.

David has also raised funds to develop a number of scholarships for students of varying backgrounds, such as the recently established Maurice de Rohan scholarship, which represents the University's first foray into international fundraising. He has always taken a keen interest in our students' progress and has taken time to meet and talk with many students at award and graduation ceremonies. Additionally, he has mentored a number of student representatives on the University Council.

Another important role David played during his decade as Chancellor was as the Chair of the Australian Universities Chancellors' Conference for three years, from 2002 to 2005. This group included all Australian University Chancellors and met regularly on issues of governance and current trends affecting the sector. As Chair, David played an important role in negotiating governance protocols with the Commonwealth Government.

Although David retired from the role of Chancellor in June 2008, he has continued to play an active role in the ongoing development of the University and of the community. He is not only a friend of the University, but is also an ambassador for the institution and a living personification of all that it stands for.

David is currently Chair of Barossa Infrastructure Limited, the Premier's Climate Change Council and the Leader's Institute of South Australia. He is also a Director of Snowy Hydro Limited, Codan Limited, Centrex Metals Limited and E & A Limited.

David is also a member of the Board of the St Andrews Hospital Foundation and Patron of the Cancer Council of South Australia.

In 2003, he was awarded a Centenary Medal for his services to civil and mining engineering. In 2005, David was acknowledged as one of Australia's "100 most influential engineers" by Engineers Australia, and following this accolade, he was acknowledged as the South Australian and Australian Professional Engineer of the Year in 2008.

In 2009 he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for his contributions to governance policy in the tertiary education sector, and for his involvement in commercial and economic development and infrastructure projects.

David is a prominent and well-respected figure in South Australia and nationally. The vast knowledge and experience he has gained from his roles as a celebrated engineer, company chairman and director will continue to benefit the community greatly in his newest role as Doctor of the University.

Chancellor, on behalf of the University of South Australia, I am pleased to present Mr David Klingberg to you for the honorary degree of 'Doctor of the University', in recognition of his significant contributions to the community and to the University of South Australia.