An De College Opening Ceremony

Time: 9:30am
Date: 22 September, 2017
Place: Caotang Campus of XUAUT
• Good morning.

• As Vice Chancellor and President of the University of South Australia may I say that it’s a great privilege for me to be here in Xi’an

• celebrating the beginning of an exciting partnership between the University of South Australia and Xi’an University of Architecture and Technology.

• We are very pleased that the Xi’an University of Architecture and Technology and UniSA An De College has been officially approved by the Chinese Ministry of Education to deliver joint programs at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.

• And I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Australian Education Management Group who have helped bring this partnership to reality.
• It is the first time an Australian university has established a joint college offering both bachelor and master degrees with a Chinese university partner.

• We are very excited to be part of this opportunity.

• We believe that Xi’an University of Architecture and Technology and the University of South Australia are strong partners;

• Xi’an University of Architecture and Technology is currently known as one of the top eight civil engineering and construction management higher education providers in China.

• The University of South Australia is Australia’s University of Enterprise with a strong culture of innovation and a commitment to creating new knowledge that will help build global economic and social prosperity.

• We have similar missions.
• Xi’an University of Architecture and Technology has formulated as its educational philosophy on the principles of boosting civilization inheritance, creating a bright future, fostering talents to invigorate China, enriching the people with technology’.

• The University of South Australia ‘educates our professionals and citizens to the highest standards; creates and disseminates knowledge; and engages with our communities to address the major issues of our time’.

• Our collaboration with industry and the professions has seen us, in only our 26th year, ranked as one of the world’s best young universities and one of the world’s best international universities.

• I am proud to say that we have long term teaching and research collaborations with China
• and, of course, we have welcomed thousands of Chinese students onto our campuses in South Australia over the past 20 years.

• Because we believe so strongly in our affiliations with China, we have worked hard to build strong long-term partnerships and articulation arrangements with a number of renowned Chinese universities and organisations over the years.

• So our affiliation with the Xi’an University of Architecture and Technology and UniSA An De College is one we look forward to with great anticipation.

• That affiliation will see us deliver joint programs at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.

• There are six degrees that we will focus on:
  
  o Bachelor of Construction Management and Economics;
  o Bachelor of Engineering Honours (Civil);
o Bachelor of Engineering Honours (Electrical and Electronic);
o Bachelor of Software Engineering Honours; and
o the Master of Engineering (Civil and Infrastructure);
and
o Master of Engineering (Water Resources Management).

• The new joint College –

• to be called An De in homage to the two great cities involved in the partnership -

• is underpinned by a 10 year agreement for XUAUT and UniSA to work together to provide excellence in engineering education on an international scale.

• You are all closely connected with XUAUT as parents, friends, students and staff and today, since we have also been joined by your colleagues in government, I would like to tell you a little about UniSA.
• UniSA is considered one of the world’s best young universities.

• Last year we celebrated our 25th birthday but our history reaches back to the early days of settlement in Adelaide.

• We began in 1856 as The School of Art, just 20 years after the Colony of South Australia was proclaimed.

• As the Colony developed, we grew with it, creating Schools and Institutes that met the needs of the growing population.

• In 1876 we opened The Training School which was the first South Australian Teachers College.

• 12 years later we established the School of Mines and Industries.
• These schools were famous for providing quality education and for responding to the rapidly developing needs of the growing Colony

• and as the population grew, and opportunities in mining and agriculture opened up, we were there ready to teach and graduate the experts that these new opportunity sectors needed.

• You may be interested to know that in 1903 we were referred to, for the first time, as The People’s University because we were practical and focused on preparing professionals for rapidly developing careers.

• We’re still doing that.

• In 1991 we amalgamated all our constituent parts and became a university with a strong social mission to offer education to anyone who wanted to work hard enough to get it

• and to serve the needs of the state.
From our earliest days the culture of service to the community was ingrained.

We used multidisciplinary teams of academics and members of industry, business and the professions to use their skills to apply technological solutions to industrial problems.

while others worked at finding solutions for social problems.

So, a mere 25 years after we were given university status we had built a powerhouse.

- We are the biggest university in the State of South Australia;
- we have around about the same number of students as XUAUT, about 32,000;
we have nearly 6,000 international students – many of whom, as I mentioned, are your countrymen and women;

- The University of South Australia has four academic divisions spread over four very different but very beautiful campuses,

- two in the city of Adelaide, and two close by in the suburbs.

- Across those campuses we deliver more than 200 degree programs:
  - **UniSA Business School** which is ranked in the world’s top 1%;
  - **Education, Arts and Social Sciences** which graduates most of South Australia’s teachers and houses our School of Art, Architecture and Design, rated by Quacarelli Symonds World University Rankings as being among the top 100 such Schools in the world;
VC's Welcome to An De College Launch

- **Health Sciences** which boasts one of the world’s top 50 Nursing Schools among many other disciplines; and
- **Information Technology, Engineering and the Environment** which is where your interests lie.
- PLUS we have a very successful **UniSA College** which prepares students who do not have the qualifications required to get directly into a bachelor degree.

- We also have four internationally acclaimed Research Institutes and 31 Research Centres and Concentrations.
- But the Division of Information Technology, Engineering and the Environment would be of most interest to you because of the engineering degrees that will be offered at the new An De College will be supported by ITEE.
• The Division is recognised as a world leader in teaching and research and has received a range of accolades for outstanding education, student and graduate satisfaction, and world-class research.

• It has over 300 full-time academic staff and more than 390 PhD students.

• It has three innovative schools
  o School of Engineering
  o School of Information Technology & Mathematical Sciences; and
  o School of Natural and Built Environments

• that offer experiential learning through engagement with industry, government and the community.

• In terms of its research, in the latest rankings conducted by the Australian Research Council, 97 per cent of its research was rated at or above world class standard.
• That means that the research done in
  o applied mathematics;
  o artificial intelligence and image processing;
  o biochemistry and cell biology;
  o civil engineering;
  o distributed computing;
  o electrical and electronic engineering;
  o environmental science and management;
  o information systems;
  o materials engineering;
  o mechanical engineering;
  o physical chemistry (including structural);
  o resources engineering; and
  o extractive metallurgy

• is better than world class.

• The Division’s graduates are skilled professionals who can use the latest technologies intelligently to create sustainable solutions for our fast-changing world.
• The Division of ITEE is located at our campus at Mawson Lakes, which is about 30 minutes north of the city of Adelaide.

• It is set amongst engineering and tech companies in the adjacent Technology Park, and has state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities. The campus features:
  o interactive learning spaces for engineering;
  o specialist IT facilities including the Mac, and CISCO networking labs;
  o South Australia’s largest IT school;
  o design, technology, and science facilities;
  o sports centre complete with fitness gym;
  o a drama centre;
  o cafés, lawn and outdoor dining areas;
  o an ecological precinct; and
  o Adelaide’s only planetarium.

• Mawson Lakes campus is also home to our multi-million dollar Materials and Minerals Science Learning and Research Hub.
• The multi-award winning building is a place for engagement between undergraduate and postgraduate coursework students, higher degree research students, leading researchers and industry stakeholders.

• It is a flexible, open and creative space aimed at stimulating innovation in relevant areas.

• Mawson Lakes is also home to one of our flagship research concentrations, the Future Industries Institute, UniSA’s flagship engineering sciences research institute.

• The Institute brings together the University’s world-class strengths in advanced manufacturing, nanomedicine, minerals and resource engineering and environmental science, and encourages researchers to blur the boundaries and build new relationships between industry and academia.

• Its end goal is to build economic growth through relevant innovation and industry partnership.
• These facilities are just part of a billion dollar capital works program we have undertaken to improve facilities for our students and our research and teaching staff

• to make sure that we support new ways of learning and create an environment that stimulates and fosters creativity and innovation.

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• The opportunity to work together with XUAUT will give us the opportunity to explore the synergies and differences in Chinese and Australian engineering practices

• it will give students broader perspectives that our highly relevant to our region.
• Chinese students who take a part of their degree in Australia will reap the benefits of having overseas experience, improving their English language skills and accessing new styles of learning and work experience opportunities.

• They will also get a richer understanding of engineering as a global career.

• The South Australian students who come to Xi’an to study will get the same benefits from studying internationally which are invaluable for engineering careers.

• And both groups get the benefits of learning a little bit more about the place they are studying in.
• Australian students get the enormous benefit of studying in one of the birthplaces of ancient Chinese civilization.

• More than 3,000 years of history including over 1,100 years as the capital city of ancient dynasties, have endowed this city with an amazing historical heritage.

• South Australia has just 181 years’ worth of history – it was proclaimed a colony in 1836 - but it is now considered one of the world’s most liveable cities.

• It is also one of Australia’s most environmentally sustainable cities.

• The University of South Australia is located in the heart of Adelaide, Australia’s education city and the capital of the state of South Australia.

• It is a perfect city for studying.
• It is welcoming and multicultural;

• it has a sense of community that small towns have yet it also has the vibrant activity of a capital city.

• Over 400 food, arts and cultural events are hosted in Adelaide per year and the city is home to Australia’s largest multi-arts festival.

• With more restaurants per capita than any other Australian city, Adelaide is the food and wine capital of Australia.

• And probably the most important fact I could give potential students is that UniSA is ranked the best university in South Australia for student satisfaction.

• That comes from a survey called Quality Indicators for Teaching and Learning, or QILT, which is funded by the Australian Government’s Department of Education and Training.
• It is the only comprehensive survey of current higher education students in Australia and measures data about student experience and graduate outcomes.

• Being Number 1 means we get a number of important things right.

• I would like to thank Xi’an University of Architecture and Technology and Australian Education Management Group for your ongoing partnership with us.

• I hope that your relationship with the University of South Australia continues to be a long and prosperous one of mutual benefit and reward.

• And I certainly look forward to welcoming your students to our campuses as I am sure you will welcome ours.

• Thank you.