

**CONFERENCE OPENING –
PROFESSOR JOHN HEDBERG,
A/EXECUTIVE DEAN, HUMAN SCIENCES**

Welcome everyone to Macquarie University and to this joint venture between Macquarie University and the *Leading Educators Around the Planet* program and the *Australian Council for Educational Leaders*.

In welcoming you on behalf of Macquarie University, I would like to acknowledge the Darug people as the Traditional Custodians of this Land on which the university is now set and pay my respects to the Elders both past and present

I extend a very warm welcome to our LEAP visitors from Canada and the United Kingdom and hope that you are finding your Australian visit a rewarding one, both professionally and personally, and that the links that you make will be sustaining ones both with Australian colleagues and with Macquarie University. We are recognized as being “the friendly university” and we hope that you will feel some of that spirit here today.

Could I also warmly welcome our local colleagues drawn from government and non-government schools and other educational institutions across Sydney and beyond. I know that many of you have connections with Macquarie, either as partner schools, or through your own postgraduate studies in education, or through members of your staff who are currently engaged in postgraduate study or in hosting our student teachers.

For this conference, Macquarie University has once again joined forces with LEAP so let me congratulate Warren Marks and Sue Lazenby at this point for their initiative in getting LEAP underway in the first place and for its remarkable growth over the last year or two.. This is the third year in which the LEAP program has operated locally and it is simply wonderful to see how the program has grown and the interest it has generated. I commend Warren and Sue both for their foresight and initiative.

Let me welcome on your behalf Helen Evans and Ralph Cuthbertson and the team from Ontario, and Graham Lancaster and the team from Essex in the United Kingdom. Thank you for your

initiatives on both sides of the Atlantic for all the work you have done so that we can be here together today.

We also greatly welcome the partnership with Jenny Lewis and the team at the Australian Council for Educational Leaders. We are indeed privileged to be partners with such a nationally and internationally recognized organization in this initiative.

Finally, I would like to extend a very special welcome to our keynote speaker Dr Dean Fink. We look forward with great anticipation to hearing what you have to say to us today Dean, and to the professional conversations that will follow. There could be no better person to stimulate our thinking on the issue of succession in education than Dean.

We have a most impressive array of guest speakers, including some of our most senior educational administrators in the state and several of our doctoral candidates from the Macquarie educational leadership program. Thank you to each of you for being part of this program.

At Macquarie we subscribe to the view of thinking globally and acting locally. We hope that today's conference will help underpin your future decisions in this area whether they be as a classroom teacher, school executive, school administrator, or academic. We hope that your future decisions will also be grounded in the best insights that are offered by educational theory and research, and the wisdom that comes from critical and informed reflection on practice. We hope to bring all of this together, today. Without you as a participant of course, none of this would be possible, so we sincerely thank everyone here today for the ways in which you have supported this initiative.

I wish you well in your deliberations and now ask Dr Norman McCulla, the Co-ordinator of our Educational Leadership Program, to introduce the topic and our keynote speaker.