

Media Release

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Sydney School of Entrepreneurship announces Dr Annabelle Duncan as new Chair

Sydney School of Entrepreneurship (SSE) today announced that Dr Annabelle Duncan has been elected as Chair of SSE's Board of Directors.

Dr Duncan, who was elected to the Board as a Member Representative in 2018 and again as an independent Director in 2019, brings significant higher education, governmental and private sector experience to the growing institution and will lead SSE's diverse and experienced Board to help drive SSE's new strategy in 2020 and beyond.

Chief Executive Officer Dr Sarah Jones said that "Dr Duncan brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to this role, as well as great passion and demonstrated leadership."

"Annabelle's eminent career in the public and private sectors, and her background working as Vice-Chancellor at one of NSW's regional universities, makes her the perfect choice for helping SSE to implement its new strategy, providing more rich and impactful experiences for diverse students of all ages and backgrounds across NSW."

Dr Duncan said she was honoured to accept the role and is looking forward to supporting and shaping SSE's vision to bolster employability and jobs creation through skills growth and entrepreneurial education.

"With our new strategy launching in 2020, SSE is poised for a new era," Dr Duncan said.

"I look forward to working with Dr Sarah Jones and the talented SSE team to further enhance the wellbeing and prosperity of people across New South Wales."

Dr Duncan will take over from Emeritus Professor Mark Wainwright AM, who was SSE's founding Chair of the Board.

Dr Duncan joined the rest of the Board in thanking Emeritus Professor Wainwright for his guidance and leadership of SSE.

"Mark leaves a tremendous legacy of success, helping found SSE and grow to over 8000 participants in just over two years," Dr Duncan said.

"The entrepreneurial and higher educational community owes him a huge debt of gratitude and I look forward to building on his hard work at SSE."

Prior to her appointment, Dr Duncan served as Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer of the University of New England (UNE) from 2014 until 2019. She joined UNE in September 2010, initially as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and then as Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

Before joining UNE, Dr Duncan spent 16 years at CSIRO, which included six years as Chief of the Division of Molecular Science.

From 1990 to 2005, she acted as an advisor to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on biological weapons control, representing Australia at international arms control meetings and acting as a biological weapons inspector with the United Nations in Iraq.

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Sydney School of Entrepreneurship (SSE) was founded as an unprecedented collaboration between all 11 NSW universities and TAFE NSW and supported by cornerstone funding from the NSW Government. Through our learning activities, we are helping our growing community develop the entrepreneurial mindset and skills that they need to succeed, while connecting them to a powerful network of local and global partners.

Sydney School of Entrepreneurship (SSE) is equipping Australians with the skills, mindset and capabilities they need to tackle the future of work, helping boost employability and jobs creation.

Whether you're looking at a career change, want to upskill, start your own business, or are just interested in the exciting world of innovation and entrepreneurship, you are always welcome at SSE.

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