

Kym Adey Citation

In a career spanning four decades, Professor Kym Adey has provided educational leadership in the service of students at school level and in higher education within this State, across Australia, and internationally.

Kym recently retired as Pro Vice Chancellor of the Access and Learning Support Portfolio and as a Vice President of the University of South Australia. His farewell, held in the Atrium of the City West Campus, reflected the recent history of South Australian higher education, with representatives from the State Education Department, the former Salisbury College of Advanced Education, the former South Australian College of Advanced Education, the Teachers' Registration Board, the Senior Secondary Assessment Board, Flinders University, and, of course, colleagues and friends from the University of South Australia. If many of those attending had a common concern beyond their respect and affection for Kym Adey, it was their shared commitment to his professional focus, the quality of teachers and teaching in our schools and higher education institutions. That commitment - and the value position on which it is founded - will, I believe, be evident in the occasional address he delivers later in this graduation ceremony.

Like many colleagues in teacher education, Kym moved quickly from classroom teaching to demonstration teacher and then tutor in teacher education, in his case in the School of Education at Flinders University. He was a foundation staff member of Salisbury CAE, principally a teacher education institution, where, after an institutional merger, he subsequently became Dean of Campus. By rapidly progressing through a series of positions of increasing responsibility, Kym Adey became the Foundation Dean of Education when this University was established, and part of its senior management.

What was unusual in Kym's early career as a teacher educator in the advanced education sector was his commitment to scholarship and international activity. He pursued an overseas doctorate, rare amongst College staff at that time, and his Ph.D. in educational psychology was awarded by the University of Arizona and was

followed by academic publications throughout his career. His scholarly presentations were delivered in many cities in North and South America, as well as in Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, Thailand, New Zealand, the Middle East and South Africa. Importantly for the University, given its commitment to internationalisation, he established a staff and student exchange program in the mid-seventies which has seen hundreds of students move between South Australia and the State University of New York. A similar program was initiated with Shaanxi Teachers University following a grant he received from the Australia-China Council in 1982 and this ran for successfully for some ten years. He continues his international activity as an education and management advisor to the World's premiere teaching institution for gastronomy and cuisine, Le Cordon Bleu.

Kym's reputation within teacher education circles has led to numerous national and international involvements in accreditation groups and advisory bodies, including chairing the Internal Validation Committee of the Hong Kong Institute of Education (twice), the Australian Vice Chancellor's Committee's Teacher Education Reference Groups (three times), the National Advisory Committee of the National Review on Education Industry Partnerships for Quality Teaching, and the National Review on Standards and Guidelines for Initial Teacher Education. His advisory board participation numbers in the dozens, and he has reviewed Faculties of Education at Deakin University, the University of Newcastle, and Curtin University of Technology.

Many of Professor Adey's involvements at Commonwealth level followed from his outstanding stewardship during four terms as National President of the Australian Council of Deans of Education, from 1994 to 1997. At that time, he was the acknowledged Australian spokesman for matters relating to teacher education and his views were regularly sought by Federal Ministers from both sides of politics.

Kym's commitment to teaching quality led also to a significant involvement in industrial matters that impinged on the work of teachers and academics, notably in the two terms he served as Vice President of the State Council of Academic Staff Associations, two terms as National Vice President of the Federation of College Academics, his chairing of the Colleges Academic Staff Industrial Committee (in South Australia), and three times through his

central role representing the University in enterprise bargaining negotiations with the National Tertiary Education Union.

Within the University and its predecessor (the South Australian College of Advanced Education) Professor Adey served in leadership positions for eighteen years, on three occasions pioneering the development of the position in question.

From 1998 until this year, Kym Adey was Pro Vice Chancellor (Access and Learning Support). In that role he oversaw policy and infrastructural development that shaped the distinctive teaching and learning mission of this University which has been acknowledged nationally. He is a senior manager who empowers others, always with good humour and unfaltering grace. His contribution to the quality of teaching, teacher education, and institutional management has been outstanding.

Chancellor, I present to you Kym Adey for the title of “Professor Emeritus” of the University of South Australia.

Prof. Bruce King

7th April, 2003