

MEDIA RELEASE

26 October 2020

The Australian Council of Deans of Education (ACDE) has elected Professor Michele Simons, Dean of Education at Western Sydney University as President for the next two years.

Professor Donna Pendergast (Griffith University) has been elected the Deputy President and Professor Elizabeth Labone (Australian Catholic University) the Secretary/Treasurer. Both have been elected for two-year terms.

At their recent AGM, ACDE paid tribute to the outgoing President, Professor Tania Aspland, for her strong support and ongoing advocacy for quality teaching over the past six years as President.

In leaving this role, Professor Aspland said “a lot more needs to be done on addressing the status of the teaching profession especially in attracting more quality graduates and retaining (and caring for) our existing workforce. These issues are well known by government/s. Critical teacher education and employment priorities need urgent attention given that Australia is experiencing a surge in teacher workforce demand due to population changes/distribution, regional/rural/remote needs, and continuing a lack of ongoing employment security”.

Professor Simons said “during 2020 communities have acknowledged how teachers have stepped up, demonstrating resilience, care and leadership throughout COVID. From early childhood through to higher education settings, educators have demonstrated remarkable adaptability in finding new ways to sustain learning for all their students. I am looking forward to leading ACDE as we forge partnerships with providers, regulators, and employers to ensure that we have an education system that can work for all learners regardless of their personal background or circumstances”.

ENDS (photos next page)

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