**2025 Conference Program - *Higher Education in the Age of AI***

**Wednesday 2nd April, 9.00 – 5.30pm State Library of Victoria, hosted by La Trobe University**

| 8.30 am | Arrival and registrations |
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| 9.00-9.15Welcome | **Session 1 - Welcome, acknowledgements and outline of day**:Martin Betts, CEO and Co-founder of HEDxProfessor Theo Farrell, Vice-Chancellor of La Trobe University |
| **Strategies and Leadership for Higher Education in the Age of AI** |
| 9.15-9.45Global best practice fireside chat | **Session 2 – What is an AI-first university starting to look like globally?**Paul LeBlanc of Human Systems - by live cross Interviewed by Professor Theo Farrell Vice-Chancellor and Dr Susan Zhang, Vice-Chancellor’s Fellow of La Trobe University |
| 9.45-10.30Tertiary Providers Leadership Panel | **Session 3 - How will AI impact Australian tertiary education?**led by John Dewar, Partner, KordaMentha withProfessor Pascale Quester, Vice-Chancellor, Swinburne University of TechnologyProfessor Andrew Parfitt, Vice-Chancellor, University of Technology Sydney Dan Cockerell, CEO of Torrens University Australia Professor Jessica Vanderlelie, DVC Academic, Deakin University  |
| 10.30-10.45 | **Q&A with slido, Professor Kelly Matthews and Professor Marcia Devlin** |
| 10.45 am | Morning tea |
| **The skills challenge: AI and the future workforce** |
| 11.15-11.45Business Fireside Chat | **Session 4 – What can tertiary education learn from how industry is reskilling for AI?**led by Patrick Kidd, CEO, Future Skills Organisation with Melinda Cilento, CEO CEDA  |
| 11.45 – 12.35Future Skills Panel | **Session 5 – How can a harmonised tertiary education sector work together with employers to deliver future skills needs?**led by Patrick Kidd, CEO, Future Skills Organisation withMegan Lilly, Deputy Commissioner, Jobs and Skills AustraliaYasminka Nemet, Future Skills Lead of MicrosoftSally Curtain CEO, Bendigo Kangan Institute Colin Gniel, Transformation Executive, LinkedIn |
| 12.35-12.50 | **Q&A with slido, Professor Kelly Matthews and Professor Marcia Devlin** |
| 12.50 pm | Lunch |
| **How do we better support students to thrive and succeed in an AI age?**  |
| 1.40 - 2.10Students Fireside Chat | **Session 6 – What does best-practice student support look like**?Dr Tim Renick, Director, National Institute of Student Success, Georgia State University and Professor George Williams Vice-Chancellor of Western Sydney University with Veronica Pritchard, University of Queensland |
| 2.10 - 2.55 Student Support Panel | **Session 7 – How can AI and data improve our future student support?**led by Sue Kokonis, Chief Academic Advisor, OESwith: Charlsey Pearce, CEO of MortarCAPS Data Standard,Sarah Bendall First Assistant Ombudsman, National Student Ombudsman Associate Professor Gemma Cadby, Data Program DIrector, ACSESWill Stubley, CEO, Year13 |
| 2.55-3.10 | **Q&A with slido, Professor Kelly Matthews and Professor Marcia Devlin** |
| 3.10-3.20 | **Session 8 - Riding the tiger of AI feedback: an AIinHE project update reporting on 7,000 students comparing teacher and AI feedback.**Professor Margaret Bearman, CRADLE, Deakin UniversityProfessor Michael Henderson, HEDI, Monash University |
| 3.20 pm | Afternoon tea |
| **How can the sector transform using AI?** |
| 3.45-4.15CIO Fireside Chat | **Session 9 - Driving AI transformation in HE: lessons from the US**Manuela Franceschini, Adobe Pedagogical Evangelist in conversation with Lev Gonick, CIO, Arizona State University and Shainal Kavar, CIO, La Trobe University |
| 4.15-5.00AI Futures Panel | **Session 10 - What are the priorities for Australian tertiary providers seeking to embrace AI?**led by Sam Jacob, CEO of Collarts (Australian College of the Arts)with Professor Danny Liu, University of SydneyProfessor Phil Laufenberg, Head of AI at Macquarie UniversityDr Susan Zhang, Vice-Chancellors Fellow, La Trobe UniversityProfessor Jason Lodge, The University of Queensland |
| 5.00-5.15 | **Q&A with slido, Professor Kelly Matthews and Professor Marcia Devlin**  |
| 5.15 – 5.30 | What’s next and closing call for action -Martin Betts and Professor Kris Ryan, DVC Academic, The University of QueenslandWords of thanks from networking sponsor Manuela Franceschini, Adobe |
| 5.30 – 6.15 | Closing reception and networking |