



Disruption Through Connections

Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th June 2026,

hosted by University of Technology Sydney

An action-oriented event for individual and collaborative change in themes of:

Connecting people and systems	Connecting pathways to learning	Connecting with students and employers	Connecting with AI and technology	Connecting with global partners

DAY 1 - Tuesday 16 June 2026

9.30am	Arrival and registrations		
10.00 - 11.10am <i>Welcome and Keynote</i>	<p>Session 1 - PLENARY (Auditorium) Conference opening and provocation Welcome, acknowledgements and outline of day: Martin Betts, CEO and Co-founder of HEDx A call to act together nationally and globally to transform the sector. WELCOME to UTS: Andrew Parfitt, VC and Kylie Readman, DVC and Chloe Ferreira* Student all from UTS KEYNOTE and Fireside Chat: on disrupting the model of university education through technology. Martin with Scott Pulsipher, President of WGU and Sasha Thackaberry-Voinovich, President of Newstate University</p>		
11.15am -12.15pm <i>Session 1 (cont'), Panels and Follow The Speaker</i>	<p>Session 1a Panel Auditorium Global AI Innovation University alliances for sharing AI Experience and university model and purpose. Martin Betts with Rose Luckin CEO of EVR, Noah Pickus, Director of Global Strategy of Duke, Shan Wareing, VC of Middlesex University, Theo Farrell, VC of La Trobe University</p>	<p>Session 1b Panel Balcony Room Online Strategies Global or Local? How Online Learner Audiences Shape Pedagogy and Strategy Kylie Readman, UTS with Jon Davey CEO of OES, Dominique Parrish, DVC of TUA, Siyon Li of CinLearn Education, Kayla Gates, UTS Online Student*</p>	<p>1c Follow The Speaker Foyer Fireside Chat Scott Pulsipher, President of WGU and Sasha Thackaberry Voinovich, President of Newstate University with Nicola Cresp, Chief Growth Officer of OES</p>

12.15 - 1.15 pm	LUNCH		
1.15 - 1.50pm <i>Keynotes</i>	Session 2 - PLENARY (Auditorium) Applied learning with employers KEYNOTE: Professor KC Chua, President of Singapore Institute of Technology with Ed Santow , of UTS on Competency-Based Education with Industry Partners for Applied Learning		
1.55 - 2.45pm <i>Session 2 (cont'), Panel, Fireside Chat and Follow The Speaker</i>	Session 2a Panel Auditorium Global experience On the status and position of Australian HE globally and global perspectives With Helen Bartlett , VC of UniSC, Max Lu , VC of Wollongong Paul Mazerolle , VC of UniSQ, Weihong Liang* , International Students Association President, and Shan Wareing , VC of Middlesex University	2b Panel Balcony Room Tertiary harmonisation On national centres of excellence for skills pathways Patrick Kidd , CEO of FSO with Margot McNeill , CEO of CIT, and Michelle Lincoln , DVC of University of Canberra and a TAFE NSW Student, Pascale Quester , VC Swinburne	2c Follow The Speaker Foyer Fireside Chat KC Chua, SIT with Martin Betts
2.45 - 3.25 pm	AFTERNOON TEA		
3.25 - 4.40pm <i>Workshops (75 mins)</i>	3a Level 5 Room Workshop: Teaching for public good –Role of teachers in student experience. Student (Madison Piper, Gemma Lucy Smart, Gazzal Dugal + more to come) and staff (Marcia Devlin, Helen Partridge, Pascale Quester, Kylie Readman, Amanda White) lightning panel and workshop by Tim Fawns (Monash) and Rachel Fitzgerald (UQ) to inform ATEC on Teaching Quality in Practice Session hosted by the Teaching & Education Focused Academic Network	3b Level 6 Room Workshop: The Capability Economy Data Standards and Human Capability Records for the new capability economy learners Charlsey Pearce MCDS, Michael Perry of ANO from Salesforce and Nils de Vries AWS and Maria Ishkova , USyd and USyd and UTS students* with table captains from HEDx partners and students*	3c Level 7 Room Workshop: The Castlereagh Statement: Developing individual accountable institutional and provider AI in HE action plans Danny Liu , USyd and Katie Ford , Microsoft - with table captains from HEDx partners and multiple students*

4.50 - 5.30pm <i>Closing Fireside Chat</i>	Session 4 – PLENARY (Auditorium) Place-based Innovation Fireside Chat: Grant Robertson with Aleks Subic and Alana Piper , UTS on place based education and its place globally With close of day summary Martin Betts , Kylie Readman and UTS student
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HEDx Connections dinner with **Michael Rose AM**, UTS Chancellor as host and speakers in **Bill Shorten**, University of Canberra and **Katie Ford**, Microsoft

DAY 2 - Wednesday 17 June 2026			
8.15am	Arrival and registrations		
9.00 - 9.40am <i>Welcome and Keynote</i>	Session 5 - PLENARY (Auditorium) Welcome, acknowledgements and outline of day: Martin Betts , CEO and Co-founder of HEDx Disrupting the global model KEYNOTE and Fireside Chat: Pierpaolo Limone , Rector of Pegaso University in Rome with Kerstin Schofer		
9.45 -10.45am <i>Session 5 (cont'), Panels and Follow The Speaker</i>	Session 5a Student views on student experience Auditorium with Jasmine Johnston of UCC and Taryn Jones , of Macquarie, Student Life 2026, and Michael Henderson AlinHE 2026 Survey of students and Gazzal Dugal UniSQ student	5b Panel A new model for student experience Balcony Room Student Experience and Success: How to improve it in a new university model Alpha Possamai-Inesedy , with Jennifer Lowe , student, WSU, Sam Jacob , Collarts, Roger Lee , Adobe, Tania Broadley , DVC ACU	5c Follow The Speaker Foyer Fireside Chat Pierpaolo Limone with Kerstin Schofer
10.45 - 11.25am	MORNING TEA		
11.25 - 12.00pm <i>Keynote</i>	Session 6 - PLENARY (Auditorium) Universities collaboration and sharing Remote KEYNOTE and Fireside Chat: Dan Greenstein of Ellucian with Martin Betts		
12.05 - 1.00pm <i>Session 7 (cont'), Panels and Follow The Speaker</i>	Session 7a Panel Cultures that support innovation Auditorium Lucy Marshall of USyd, Kirsten Brown UTS HDR Alumni*, Robynne Quiggin AO , UTS, Mitch Parsell , DVC Education, JCU	7b Panel Shared organisational models Balcony Room Guy Littlefair DVC of UWA, with Adelaide Uni student Heather Margrison* , Bruce Lines of Adelaide Uni, Belinda Tynan , DVC	7c Seminar Level 5 Room Seminar led by Scott Pulsipher , Designing a new online university from scratch: President of WGU on “from scratch” design of a student-centered, opportunity-aligned, tech-enabled institution.

DAY 2 - Wednesday 17 June 2026

	Sasha Thackaberry-Voinovich , Newstate University	University of Newcastle, Lou Conway , CEO Country Universities Centres	
1.00- 2.00 pm	LUNCH		
2.00 - 3.20 pm <i>Workshops (80mins)</i>	8a Level 5 Room AI literacy in knowledge curation Workshop AI-literate leadership – what it actually looks like when universities stop theorising and start building. Participants work through live AI tools and a HEDx curated resource to surface the strategic questions most leaders are still dodging. Hands-on, provocative, and deliberately uncomfortable. Aaron Driver of UNE, Jami Emerson of UTS, and Tim Rayner of Superesque	8b Level 6 Room Opportunities for collaboration Workshop Doing things differently: looking for opportunities for collaboration with John Dewar of KordaMentha, Ian Armstrong of Ellucian, Lea Patterson of Pilbara with table captains from HEDx partners and multiple students*	8c Level 7 Room AUS-HE collective intelligence hub Workshop on using a model of collective intelligence of current AI strategies of universities to improve the student experience Simon Buckingham Shum and Jan McLean of UTS with table captains from HEDx partners and multiple students*
3.20 - 4.00pm	AFTERNOON TEA		
4.00 - 5.15pm <i>Closing</i>	Session 9 – PLENARY (Auditorium) Collaborative and individual action in AI innovation Panel on action and accountability for where next in local and global university-led collaboration for a new model of education in University 2.0? led by George Williams of WSU with Phil Laufenberg , PVC AI of La Trobe University Sam Jacob , CEO of Collarts Chris Moran , VC of UNE and Shan Wareing , VC of Middlesex University 45 minutes Event close and what and where next for HEDx? - Martin Betts with Madison Piper* , Ben Roden-Cohen* and Suzanne Le Mire , UQ 15 minutes Vote of Thanks from Adobe and invitation to drinks		
5.15 - 6.15pm	CLOSING RECEPTION & NETWORKING		