



## 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><b>Session 1 - PLENARY (Auditorium)</b>  <b>Conference opening and provocation</b>          Welcome to country, acknowledgements and outline of day:  <b>Martin Betts, CEO and Co-founder of HEDx</b>          A call to act together nationally and globally to transform the sector.  <b>WELCOME to UTS: Andrew Parfitt, VC and Kylie Readman, DVC Academic and Vice President and Chloe Ferreira* Student all from UTS</b>  <b>KEYNOTE and Fireside Chat: Innovating in higher education: let the future drive!</b> with <b>Scott Pulsipher</b>, President of WGU and <b>Sasha Thackaberry-Voinovich</b>, President of Newstate University</p>		
11.15am -12.15pm <i>Session 1 (cont'), Panels and Follow The Speaker</i>	<p><b>Session 1a Panel Auditorium</b>  <b>Global Innovation</b>          University alliances for sharing innovation and new university models.  <b>Martin Betts</b> with <b>Rose Luckin</b> CEO of EVR, <b>Noah Pickus</b>, Head of Global Strategy and Partnerships of Duke, <b>Shan Wareing</b>, VC of Middlesex University, <b>Theo Farrell</b>, VC of La Trobe University</p>	<p><b>Session 1b Panel Balcony Room</b>  <b>Online Strategies</b>          Global or Local? How Online Learner Audiences Shape Pedagogy and Strategy  <b>Kylie Readman</b>, UTS with <b>Jon Davey</b> CEO of OES, <b>Dominique Parrish</b>, DVC of TUA, <b>Siyan Li</b> of CinLearn Education, <b>Kayla Gates</b>, UTS Online Student*</p>	<p><b>1c Follow The Speaker Foyer</b>  <b>Scott Pulsipher</b>, <b>President of WGU</b> and <b>Sasha Thackaberry-Voinovich</b>, President of Newstate University with <b>Nicola Cresp</b>, Chief Global Growth Officer of OES</p>

12.15 - 1.15pm	<b>LUNCH</b>		
1.15 - 1.50pm <i>Keynotes</i>	<b>Session 2 - PLENARY (Auditorium)</b> <b>University for Industry: A New Model for Connected, Future-Ready Learning</b> <b>KEYNOTE: Professor KC Chua, President of Singapore Institute of Technology with Ed Santow, of UTS</b>		
1.55 - 2.45pm <i>Session 2 (cont'), Panel, Fireside Chat and Follow The Speaker</i>	<b>Session 2a Panel Auditorium</b> <b>Global experience</b> On the status and position of Australian HE globally with <b>Helen Bartlett</b> , VC of UniSC, <b>Joe Chicharo</b> , DVC of Wollongong <b>Paul Mazerolle</b> , VC of UniSQ, <b>Weihong Liang</b> , President of International Students Representative Council of Australia, and <b>Shân Wareing</b> , VC of Middlesex University	<b>2b Panel Balcony Room</b> <b>Tertiary harmonisation</b> On harmonised tertiary skills pathways <b>David Turvey</b> , Executive Director of ATEC with <b>Margot McNeill</b> , CEO of CIT, and <b>Michelle Lincoln</b> , DVC of University of Canberra, <b>Taryn Jones</b> PVC of Macquarie and <b>Pascale Quester</b> , VC Swinburne	<b>2c Follow The Speaker Foyer</b> <b>KC Chua, SIT with Kerstin Schoefer</b>
2.45 - 3.25pm	<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b>		
3.25 - 4.40pm <i>Workshops (75 mins)</i>	<b>3a Level 5 Room</b> <b>Workshop: Teaching for public good</b> Role of teachers in student experience. Student ( <b>Madison Piper, Gemma Lucy Smart, Gazzal Dugal</b> ) and staff ( <b>Marcia Devlin, Kylie Readman, Pascale Quester, Amanda White</b> ) lightning panel and workshop by <b>Tim Fawns and Rachel Fitzgerald</b> briefing ATEC on Teaching Quality in Practice Teaching & Education Focused Academic Network	<b>3b Level 6 Room</b> <b>Workshop: The Capability Economy</b> Data Standards and Human Capability Records for the new capability economy learners <b>Charlsey Pearce MCDS, Michael Perry from Salesforce, Nils de Vries AWS and Maria Ishkova, USyd</b> and USyd and UTS students and HEDx technology partners	<b>3c Level 7 Room</b> <b>Workshop: The Castlereagh Statement:</b> Developing individual accountable institutional and provider AI in HE action plans <b>Danny Liu, USyd and Katie Ford, Microsoft</b> - with table captains from HEDx partners and multiple students*
4.50 - 5.30pm <i>Closing Fireside Chat</i>	<b>Session 4 – PLENARY (Auditorium)</b> <b>Place-based Innovation</b> <b>Fireside Chat: Grant Robertson with Aleks Subic and Alana Piper, UTS</b> With close of day summary <b>Martin Betts, Kylie Readman, Erin Choy and Mimi Baron</b>		

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>	<b>Session 5 - PLENARY (Auditorium)</b> <b>Welcome, acknowledgements and outline of day:</b> <b>Martin Betts</b> , CEO and Co-founder of HEDx <b>Disrupting the global model</b> <b>KEYNOTE and Fireside Chat: Pierpaolo Limone</b> , Rector of Pegaso University in Rome with <b>Kerstin Schofer</b>		
9.45 -10.45am <i>Session 5 (cont'), Panels and Follow The Speaker</i>	<b>Session 5a</b> <b>Student voice</b> <b>Auditorium</b> with <b>Jasmine Johnston</b> of UCC and <b>Taryn Jones</b> , of Macquarie, Student Life 2026, and <b>Michael Henderson</b> AlinHE 2026 Survey of students and <b>Gazzal Duggal</b> UniSQ student	<b>5b Panel</b> <b>A new model for student experience</b> <b>Balcony Room</b> Student Experience and Success: How to improve it in a new model <b>Roger Lee</b> , Adobe, <b>Alpha Possamai-Inesedy</b> , WSU, <b>Jennifer Lowe</b> , student, UON, <b>Sam Jacob</b> , Collarts, and <b>Tania Broadley</b> , DVC ACU	<b>5c Follow The Speaker</b> <b>Foyer</b> <b>Pierpaolo Limone</b> with <b>Kerstin Schofer</b>
10.45 - 11.25am	<b>MORNING TEA</b>		
11.25 - 12.00pm <i>Keynote</i>	<b>Session 6 - PLENARY (Auditorium)</b> <b>Universities collaboration and sharing</b> <b>Remote KEYNOTE and Fireside Chat: Dan Greenstein</b> of Ellucian with <b>Noah Pickus</b>		
12.05 - 1.00pm <i>Session 7 (cont'), Panels and Follow The Speaker</i>	<b>Session 7a Panel</b> <b>Cultures that support innovation</b> <b>Auditorium</b> <b>Lucy Marshall</b> of USyd, <b>Kirsten Brown</b> UTS HDR Alumni*, <b>Robynne Quiggin AO</b> , UTS, <b>Mitch Parsell</b> , DVC Education, JCU <b>Sasha Thackaberry-Voinovich</b> , Newstate University	<b>7b Panel</b> <b>Shared organisational models</b> <b>Balcony Room</b> <b>Guy Littlefair</b> DVC of UWA, with Adelaide Uni student <b>Heather Margrison</b> , <b>Bruce Lines</b> of Adelaide Uni, <b>Belinda Tynan</b> , DVC University of Newcastle, <b>Lou Conway</b> , CEO Country Universities Centres	<b>7c Seminar</b> <b>Level 5 Room</b> <b>Seminar - Disrupting learning: Lessons from America's largest and least conventional university</b> , led by <b>Scott Pulsipher</b> : President of WGU on "from scratch" design of a student-centered, opportunity-aligned, tech-enabled institution.
1.00- 2.00pm	<b>LUNCH</b>		

**DAY 2 - Wednesday 17 June 2026**

<p>2.00 - 3.20pm <i>Workshops (80mins)</i></p>	<p><b>8a Level 5 Room Workshop AI literacy in knowledge curation</b> 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. <b>Aaron Driver</b> of UNE, <b>Jami Emerson</b> of UTS, and <b>Annabel Murphy</b> of HEDx</p>	<p><b>8b Level 6 Room Workshop Opportunities for collaboration</b> Doing things differently: looking for opportunities for collaboration with <b>Ian Armstrong</b> of Ellucian, <b>Lea Patterson</b> of Pilbara with table captains from HEDx partners and multiple students*</p>	<p><b>8c Level 7 Room Workshop AUS-HE collective intelligence hub</b> How are institutions navigating the hard decisions around GenAI, and how can we make sense of this collectively? This workshop introduces a “Collective Intelligence Hub”, where institutions share resources and approaches for AI-supported comparison. Participants will test the concept and explore its potential for sector-wide decision-making. <b>Simon Buckingham Shum</b> and <b>Jan McLean</b> of UTS</p>
<p>3.20 - 4.00pm</p>	<p><b>AFTERNOON TEA</b></p>		
<p>4.00 - 5.15pm <i>Closing</i></p>	<p><b>Session 9 – PLENARY (Auditorium)</b> <b>Collaborative and individual action in AI innovation</b> <b>Panel</b> 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 <b>George Williams</b> of WSU with <b>Phil Laufenberg</b>, PVC AI of La Trobe University <b>Sam Jacob</b>, CEO of Collarts <b>Chris Moran</b>, VC of UNE and <b>Shan Wareing</b>, VC of Middlesex University <b>45 minutes</b></p> <p>Event close and what and where next for HEDx? - <b>Martin Betts</b> with <b>Madison Piper</b>, <b>Ben Roden-Cohen</b> and <b>Suzanne Le Mire</b>, UQ 15 minutes Vote of Thanks from <b>Adobe</b> and <b>invitation to drinks</b></p>		
<p>5.15 - 6.15pm</p>	<p><b>CLOSING RECEPTION &amp; NETWORKING</b></p>		