New Chancellor for Murdoch University

Murdoch University’s Senate is pleased to announce the appointment of Non Executive Chairman Atlas Iron, David Flanagan as the new Chancellor of the University.

Mr Flanagan will take the reins from Mr Terry Budge, who is retiring from the role after nearly seven years.

A geologist by trade, Mr Flanagan has more than 20 years’ experience in mining and mineral exploration in Australia, Indonesia and West Africa.

Mr Flanagan is a highly respected businessman, philanthropist and entrepreneur.

He founded Atlas Iron in 2004 and since this time it has grown from a $9 million exploration company with one employee to a business that generates more than $1 billion a year and employs more than 700 people.

Ms Eva Skira, Deputy Chancellor and Chair of the Senate Search Committee, said that Murdoch was very pleased to have secured Mr Flanagan as the new Chancellor after an exhaustive selection process.

Vice Chancellor Professor Richard Higgott agreed saying that the University was very excited to have Mr Flanagan as Chancellor.

“We look forward to the benefit of his expertise as we continue to reposition Murdoch as a strong research focused university playing an increasingly greater role in both our immediate and wider Asia-Pacific region,” he said.

“He is a dynamic, enthusiastic, energetic, and very community minded leader which makes him a great fit for Murdoch at this point in its history as the University approaches its 40th anniversary,” Professor Higgott added.

Mr Flanagan said he was looking forward to his new role and he paid tribute to the leadership of outgoing Chancellor Terry Budge.

“I will be following in the footsteps of many distinguished Chancellors of Murdoch including Senator Fred Chaney, Sir Ronald Wilson and current Chancellor Terry Budge, who has led the Murdoch Senate during a time of significant change in the higher education sector.

“I am delighted to join a university with such strong credentials at an exciting time in its life and I am committed to helping achieve the strategic vision of Murdoch to be internationally recognised for the quality of its research, teaching, student outcomes and community engagement.
“I am currently a member of the First Murdoch Commission - an independent internationally focussed inquiry into the growing economic interdependency of Western Australia, Australia and the Asian region. I have seen first-hand and been a part of the great work Murdoch University is undertaking."

Mr Flanagan will officially begin his role as Murdoch University Chancellor in August 2013.

BACKGROUND:

David Flanagan B.Sc, MAusIMM

Mr Flanagan is a geologist with more than 20 years’ experience in mining and mineral exploration in Australia, Indonesia and West Africa. Prior to founding Atlas Iron as Managing Director in 2004 he was Exploration Manager with Gindalbie Gold NL where he led the geological component of the company’s gold mining and then iron ore development projects.

Mr Flanagan also participates in industry organisations, not-for-profit boards and charities, holding positions on the board of Youth Focus, GivingWest, Australian Prospecting Mining Hall of Fame, Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, the Australian Institute of Company Directors and is patron for Many Rivers Microfinance.

Mr Flanagan also serves as a Commissioner for Murdoch University’s First Murdoch Commission, an independent international inquiry on the growing economic interdependency of Western Australia, Australia and the Asian region. The Commission will help develop greater understanding among nations in the Region, and to consider the common challenges and opportunities facing these nations in the coming 5 to 10 years.

Former Murdoch Chancellors

Mr Terry Budge 2006-2013
Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bolton 2002-2006
The Hon Fred Chaney 1995-2002
The Hon John Wickham 1974-1980

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