

ACEL PRESIDENT ELECT

Dear Members,

The ACEL Board is very pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Jim Watterston FACEL as President Elect of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders.

Jim is the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Department of Education and Training and is a member of many boards and organisations including recently being appointed as a founding Director of the Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership.

Prior to moving to the ACT Jim was the Regional Director of the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's Eastern Metropolitan Region and has worked in a range of positions within the Western Australian Department of Education and Training with his last position being the Director of Schools in the West Coast Education District. He had previously served as a Superintendent of Education and had fourteen years experience as a school Principal.

He has successfully completed a Doctorate in Education at the University of WA with a thesis entitled, *Schools as Centres of Lifelong Learning for All*.

Jim is proud of the fact that prior to becoming a school administrator his most productive and memorable experience was as a Year 1 teacher where he developed a strong and practical commitment to focussing on the individual learning needs of each student. He is passionate about ensuring that schools are built upon quality relationships between all stakeholders and are lead by well informed pedagogical leaders to ensure that success is optimised for all.

Upon accepting his appointment, Jim commented:

"My membership of ACEL since 1993 has been extremely beneficial and I am now both thrilled and appreciative to have an opportunity to be able to give something back to an organisation that has assisted me in so many ways. I see my

contribution to ACEL as ensuring that educators at all levels and across all systems continue to have a rich and relevant source of ideas and information; a capacity to be part of cutting edge thinking; and an opportunity to enhance their capabilities through participation in ACEL activities.

I will be striving to continue to grow the influence of ACEL throughout all parts of the country in order to expand our reach and opportunities. I am keen to assist in maintaining ACEL's well-earned reputation and standing as the leading voice of committed educational professionals who seek to ensure that every student is provided with an optimal and uniquely crafted education that will provide a basis for successful lifelong learning."

Jim will commence his term as President of ACEL at the conclusion of the ACEL AGM at the ACEL International Conference in September.

