

Welcome to Charles Sturt University

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to Charles Sturt University in Bathurst for the 2015 **SEGRA** Conference.

Charles Sturt University (CSU) is the largest regionally based University in Australia, with campuses located in Albury-Wodonga, Bathurst, Canberra, Dubbo, Goulburn, Orange, Port Macquarie and Wagga Wagga, as well as Regional Study Centres in Griffith and Wangaratta.

More than 75% of CSU's on-campus rural students move into employment in rural and regional areas after graduation, while around 40% of CSU's online students are from regional, rural and remote locations.

CSU is a university of the land and people of our regions. We are a university whose courses, graduates and research help regional communities to thrive and prosper economically, socially and environmentally. We are a university that aims to improve educational outcomes and lives for Indigenous, regional, rural and remote Australians.

CSU's mission is to advance higher education opportunity and research that meets the particular needs and aspirations of the people of regional Australia.

Universities play an important role in helping individuals and businesses to prosper through the development of new knowledge and skills, and fostering innovation.

Another important dimension of the role of universities is working together with communities to promote regional development and to deliver mutually beneficial outcomes.

CSU works closely with our local communities and industries through the provision of a broad range of services from health clinics to research consultancies to deliver projects that offer mutual benefits to our communities and the University.

True to the character of regional Australia, CSU has gumption, soul and collaborates with others to develop holistic, far-sighted people who help their communities grow and flourish.

It is therefore very appropriate for CSU to host **SEGRA**, Australia's premier conference on regional issues, which assists regional, rural and remote Australia to source and identify the techniques, skills and issues they need to address to achieve successful economic growth and development.

Acknowledging the culture and insight of Indigenous Australians, CSU's ethos is clearly described by the Wiradjuri phrase: *'yindyamarra winhanga-nha'* (*'the wisdom of respectfully knowing how to live well in a world worth living in'*).

We welcome you to the 2015 **SEGRA** Conference and look forward to the discussion about leading and growing sustainable regions, so that we may all live well in a world worth living in.

Professor Andrew Vann
Vice-Chancellor

Supporting the development of Charles Sturt University's regions

Through initiatives such as the Community-University Partnerships (CUP) Grants Program, Charles Sturt University (CSU) supports the development of its regional communities through contributions to Indigenous, cultural, economic, sporting and other activities while building higher education aspiration and awareness.

Ms Linda Breen, Acting Director Government and Community Relations said, "Charles Sturt University's mission is to advance higher education opportunity and research that meets the particular needs and aspirations of the people of regional Australia.

"The Community-University Partnerships (CUP) Grants Program is one such initiative that aims to cultivate strong, relevant and collaborative partnerships designed to build higher education aspiration and awareness, particularly amongst young people in our rural and regional communities."

With a focus on supporting young people in the Bathurst, Orange, Wagga Wagga, Albury-Wodonga, Dubbo and Port Macquarie regions, CSU's CUP Program has already produced a positive impact by facilitating projects that local community groups and individuals would not otherwise have had the resources to undertake.

Implemented in 2014 to improve the way the University supports its communities, the Program provides much needed funds to an increasing number of Indigenous, arts/culture, sporting, educational and other community groups in CSU's regions. Funding granted in 2015 is expected to exceed \$200,000.

"The University's sponsorship of the many initiatives and projects has resulted in real benefits not only for the recipient but for the broader community by building skills and supporting important activities that encourage development and sustainability of regional and rural communities," Ms Breen said.

By providing support and much needed funds to community groups and individuals, innovative practices have resulted that showcase the wealth of skills and practices of regional communities.

"CSU's primary purpose is to be at the service of its communities and deliver high quality degree-level education, research and engagement within these communities. We are committed to the continuance of the CUP Program as a way of supporting initiatives that assist the development of its communities.

"The CSU CUP Program evidences good practice in community engagement and may even be applied by other higher education institutions, particularly those in regional areas."

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