



## Doctor of Science *Honoris Causa* Deborah Kennedy Gilbertson CNZM, BAgCom

Education has many definitions, but common threads are change, transformation and growth.

It's Lincoln University's core business, and it has been at the heart of alumna Deborah Gilbertson's career for more than 40 years, particularly in relation to the science and technology sectors, innovation, leadership opportunities for women, and the encouragement of cross-culturalism.

Deb, as she prefers to be known, regards her focus on education as a direct result of her own experiences as a degree student at Lincoln University where experiential learning has always been strong.

Deb graduated in 1980 and for a short while was a member of the Agricultural Economics Research Unit (AERU). Since then, her career has ranged far and wide, but in essence has been concerned with education and the flowering of personal potential for individual fulfilment and the collective betterment of society.

In the 1980s Deb established a Women in Science Network with the then DSIR, and with Lincoln University's support she helped establish the Women in Agriculture Network, which achieved a membership of 10,000 in its first decade of operation.

In the mid-1980s she ran a National Venture Capital Industry Development Workshop which led to

significant policy changes and an increase in the number of venture capital organisations. She co-founded the Wellington Venture Capital Association, and founded too the Emergent Māori Women's Leadership Programme.

In 2006 Deb established Te Kaihau Education Trust, a consultancy which grows leaders to innovate for a better world. Through Te Kaihau she was awarded a United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Award for her 'Global Enterprise Experience' contest and its impact on fostering cross-culturalism, peer leadership and social enterprise internationally.

Deb's current work includes developing graduate diplomas that aggregate micro-credentials to help emerging innovators advance their new ventures.

Deb stands particularly committed to the transformative power of science and the impact of new ventures that address the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

**In all respects, and especially in relation to her abiding belief in the power for good of education, Deborah Kennedy Gilbertson is a very worthy candidate for the Lincoln University degree Doctor of Science Honoris Causa.**

Professor Grant Edwards  
Vice-Chancellor

Bruce Gemmell  
Chancellor