

Professor Peter Dawkins
Vice-Chancellor and President

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To: 2012 Heiskell Award Selection Committee

On behalf of the Victoria University, I am pleased to submit an application for the 2012 Andrew Heiskell Awards for Innovation in International Education, in the category of *"Best Practices in International Partnerships recognising strategic, comprehensive and innovative international partnership efforts"*.

In providing this application, it is clear to me that Victoria University in Australia is a university that has a diverse student demographic with a high percentage of students from low SES backgrounds, students who are first in family in tertiary education, and a university that has substantial cultural diversity. We are strongly committed to delivering graduates with a set of highly-developed 21st century skills, with the necessary industry skills to meet future workforce demands.


When I had the opportunity to travel to the United States on university business in June of this year, I was pleased to be able to view first-hand the important ongoing partnership with the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). The two institutions are intrinsically linked with their shared goals of providing an excellent and accessible educational experience for the new student populations of the 21st century. I had occasion to be very impressed with the strength and quality of the partnerships and programs that are already established, and enthusiastically championed by dedicated staff at both institutions.

Victoria University deeply values the relationships it has built with its trans-national partners, particularly the very close one it has with UTEP. Indeed, some of our most distinctive programs, are models that are developed and implemented after a process of collaboration and knowledge exchange, such as our highly successful Students as Staff program, the Global Learning Community, Student Employment and Exchange, V4U (Volunteer4You) and many more. We are very proud to be developing an integrated educational experience based on teaching and learning pedagogy, and on exchanging program learnings with UTEP to continue the knowledge exchange capabilities, with many other initiatives are being added as the partnership evolves.

As endorsement of the new Victoria University Strategic Plan 2012-2016 is now finalised, and we move into the next phase of our Strategic Planning, we remain committed to ensuring that our students are being prepared to be successful global citizens, and ensuring that our researchers are internationally engaged. It is an important priority for Victoria University to continue to have an increasingly international presence and outlook. Important partnerships such as the one between our two institutions continue to broaden the range and depth of collaboration internationally, and ensure we can both continue to deliver high-quality education programs which are appropriately resourced for quality and long-term sustainability.

I fully endorse this application on behalf of the University, and I look forward to hearing of the outcome.

Yours sincerely



Professor Peter Dawkins
Vice-Chancellor and President