

CIT Board Communique – April 2024

Welcome to our new and returning students and welcome back to our CIT staff as we settle in to the 2024 academic year.

As this is the first Board Communique for the year, I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we teach and learn, the Ngunnawal people - and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. In February 2024, the CIT Board began consideration of our third Reconciliation Action Plan for CIT, which aims to strengthen our shared journey of reconciliation and understanding with our First Nations students and staff.

I warmly welcome our students and I hope that through your time with CIT you learn the skills you need through your careers, perhaps even build a passion for lifelong learning. It was great news that the fee-free TAFE initiative was extended, allowing CIT to continue supporting students with 600 fee-free places available each semester. Information on eligibility for fee-free TAFE including the courses available (and the priority learner cohorts) can be found on our CIT website at cit.edu.au

CIT staff are renowned for their dedication to their work and supporting our students. The mark of a strong and supportive culture is how our teachers take the extra steps to assist our students to meet their goals. It is through the professionalism of all our staff that CIT delivers the impressive graduates and skilled workers essential for the people and economy of the ACT region. On behalf of the Board, I acknowledge and thank all staff.

The CIT All-staff Conference in January at CIT Bruce was a great opportunity for everyone to get together and look at our direction for the year. It was also a great chance for me to engage with people about CIT's direction over the next ten years as we develop our new strategic plan. The strategy is ambitious and takes into account the local and National intent with the National Skills Agreement and will articulate a 10-year plan. I am looking forward to engaging next with external stakeholders to hear their views and gather insights to inform the plan.

This is an exciting time for CIT as we look at campus renewal and look forward to a new building in Woden to ensure we continue to have state -of-the-art facilities for our students and staff. We welcomed ACT Govt announcements in January regarding additional funding for CIT Woden to ensure that the building has smart technology to meet future needs. Board members had the opportunity to visit the site and see first-hand the progress being made. Last month CIT Board members also visited CIT Bruce, giving us an opportunity to talk to students and staff and to see the range of facilities.

It was also fantastic news to secure funding to support the feasibility of a future energy skills hub at Fyshwick and a proposal to the Commonwealth that a centre of excellence be established at CIT Fyshwick to train more EV automotive technicians and to support the electrification of the economy. CIT has ambitions to grow across our five campus precincts, all of which have their vital role to play to strengthen Canberra's future growth and prosperity.

Whilst there are still headwinds to manage, these do not diminish in any way the pride we all share in CIT's ongoing achievements and success delivering high quality teaching and learning experiences for our community, nor do they inhibit our plans to continue strengthening our governance and grow together into an exciting future.

Kate Lundy