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MEDIA RELEASE

Building Partnerships: Finding Solutions – The University Workforce in Profile

The role of industry, government and business in shaping the future workforce within Australia's universities will be examined at the annual conference of Australia's leading technology universities.

ATN Director, Vicki Thomson said whilst the standard of job ready graduates must remain a critical focus for the sector, it was equally important to examine the changing structure of the workforce.

Ms Thomson said the ATN employs some 13,700 staff across the five universities and it was imperative that the sector was able to be responsive in meeting the demands of industry and business.

“However, equally important is the role of government, business and industry in shaping that workforce. There is no doubt that the staffing profile of our universities will increasingly need to reflect the distinctive mix of capabilities required to maintain our competitiveness in a global market.

“This involves a continual analysis of the profile of our staff, both academic and professional, with particular attention to succession planning, age profile and diversity,” Ms Thomson said.

The 2005 Conference, to be held in Melbourne Feb 9-11, will examine how universities work toward identifying and aligning the future workforce requirements of the sector with the needs of industry, business and government; building the capabilities of staff across ATN universities to be ready to meet those needs, and identifying how the ATN can be of value in identifying and developing staff capabilities.

“With the changing nature of work in all sectors, the ATN believes this will be a critical area to address in the very near future,” Ms Thomson said.

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