

Prof Medwin Hughes
CBE DL DPhil DPS FRSA FLSW

Citation for Outstanding Achievement Award

Medwin Hughes is a transformational leader and an inspirational ambassador for Wales.

He has delivered systemic changes within the educational system demonstrating a commitment to improving equity of opportunities for learners. Through his entrepreneurial leadership he created the innovative Welsh 'dual sector' university model.

As Wales's longest serving Vice Chancellor, he delivered the largest ever single HE merger within Wales: four Universities and two Tertiary Colleges into a unified structure.

Over thirty years he has led on the promotion of the Welsh language in HE. As one of the founding members of The Welsh College and as Vice Chair and the longest serving member of the Governmental Welsh Language Board, he played a formative role in the normalisation of the language.

Of national importance was his role as Chair of two Advisory Committees established by the National Assembly of Wales and the Language Board to develop bilingual procedural terms and a translation regulatory framework for the Assembly. Its impact resulted in a fully bilingual administration for the Government of Wales.

He believes with passion in inclusive education, creating over a decade ago the Institute for Inner City Learning in the Cities of Swansea, Cardiff, Birmingham and London. Thousands of BAME students have been given life changing opportunities which has helped to close the ethnicity gap and racial disparities within HE.

His contribution to voluntary and charity work in Wales is significant over a long period of time.

Previously, he was Chair of Kaleidoscope Cymru for over a decade, one of Wales's largest substance misuse charity services. He was also a founding trustee of the Carmarthenshire Regeneration Trust which played a role in safeguarding several historic buildings across Wales.

He is currently the Chair of the Representative Body of the Church in Wales, one of Wales's largest charities. He also serves as a trustee of Welsh National Opera and of Cwllwm Monduli - Wales Africa network.

Since his retirement as Vice Chancellor, he was appointed by the Welsh Government to Chair the new national independent body for Wales – The Citizen Voice Body for Wales for Health and Social Care responsible for leading a national conversation amongst the Welsh people on the future of the health and social care system.

Over the years he has been closely related with a number of key strategic areas of interests of His Majesty the King and His Royal Household. He currently is actively involved with the King's Foundation and serves as a Committee Member of the King's Advisory Committee and also on The King's Commonwealth Fellowship Programme Advisory Committee.

He is the founding member and Chair of the Global Futures Alliance – an international network established as a direct result of the “call to action” inspired by His Majesty that focuses upon active youth leadership and driving a positive agenda for change.

This active leadership is building a strong international organisation that supports His Majesty in the area of education and youth resilience across the Commonwealth.

In recognition of his voluntary work, he was appointed High Sheriff of Dyfed for 2016-17 and he currently serves as His Majesty’s Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Dyfed,

In 2023, he was honoured by His Majesty the King with the CBE for services to Education and the Welsh Language.