

The Honorary Graduand: Professor Paul Olomolaiye PhD, FRSA

The Orator: Professor Sir Steven West

Professor Paul Olomolaiye is to be awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor Engineering.

Until recently, Paul Olomolaiye, was the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Equality and Civic Engagement at the UWE-Bristol. He holds a PhD degree in Civil Engineering from Loughborough University and gained his Professorship some 25 years ago. He worked briefly on a World Bank Project on completion of his PhD before progressing to academia at the University of Wolverhampton where, as the Dean of Engineering and the Built Environment, he and his team achieved significant year on year business growth through an inspirational and value-driven leadership. He progressed to UWE-Bristol as the Pro Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Environment and Technology he, again, led his team in building Student Experience and Research Platforms rated as outstanding at the Research Excellence Framework and National Student Surveys. Paul is Industry- focused on his drive, in whichever region he works, to prosper in a globally competitive world. With well published and on-going research and active knowledge transfer initiatives, Paul has developed specific expertise in productivity and performance enhancement strategies to the benefit of several Governments, Agencies, Charities, Companies and Institutions worldwide.

Paul is an academic leader with significant direct leadership at Subject, Department and Faculty Levels as Dean and Pro Vice-Chancellor continuously for more than 20 years in two UK Universities with commendation for Quality Improvement, Business Growth and Reputational gains. Enterprising and Motivational Strengths have been developed over the years through local, regional and global initiatives that improve productivity and business sustainability of stakeholders who he actively seeks wherever he works. He directly and in collaboration with various stakeholders generated more than £50million for Research, Knowledge Exchange and Transnational Education Programs to assist globalization efforts at Wolverhampton and UWE-Bristol. Paul has led student recruitment drive to Africa and helped in sustaining international expansion drives to the Middle East and Southeast Asia at UWE-Bristol. He is instrumental in setting up the UWE-Bristol Office in Lagos, Nigeria; and currently exploring a wholesome African Strategy for UWE-Bristol. He has established successful collaborative degree courses in France, Malaysia, Sri-Lanka, Nigeria, Hong Kong, Singapore and Oman. The Royal Society and the African Union tap his expertise for administering research grants worth more than £12million across the African Continent. Paul's leadership within and outside the university has won several awards for innovation and Student Satisfaction – for example scooped seven Lord Stafford Awards - the regional Oscars for Innovation in the West Midlands Region and many others through the Innovation Networks (I-Nets) in Advanced Engineering, Sustainable Health and Environment etc.

Curiosity and Research have defined Leadership approaches all through Paul's Career. His CV is replete with a list of more than 200 publications and reports, Research Grants, PhD Supervision, External Examinerships etc.; but quiet on an impressive number of his directly supervised and mentored students who are now Professors, Deans and Pro Vice-Chancellors leading great

institutions all over the world. He seems to have been able to replicate his values and success in many others with great success.

Paul's Leadership strengths cuts across every discipline across UWE-Bristol. Although continuously responsible for the Faculty of Environment and Technology as the Pro Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean, Paul performed same function in addition to his normal duties for the Faculty of Arts and Creative Industries and Education and the College of Business and Law. Paul also cuts through the education landscape as Chair of the Cabot Learning Federation (CLF) – the UWE-Bristol Multi Academy Trust of 35 Schools across Greater Bristol and Somerset. CLF Schools had their best result ever this summer – thanks to the vision to achieve Equity through Education. He is also a Non-Exec Director for the Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Trust where he is contributing his 'widow's mite' to changing the narrative for Service Users across our region. Paul regards his recent appointment as a Trustee of the Wallscourt Foundation that focuses on the sustainability of UWE-Bristol far into the future as the best endorsement of his achievements and commitment to the staff and students of the Institution that he loves so much.