

Dean of Lifelong Learning and Professional Practice announced

René Koglbauer has been appointed as the University's first Dean of Lifelong Learning and Professional Practice.

The role will help consolidate a new approach to lifelong learning and professional practice at Newcastle University, while responding to pressing global challenges in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. René will work alongside our Dean of Innovation and Business, Professor Mike Capaldi, to bridge the various activities of the faculties with the wider business development and enterprise team.

This Deanship will also complement the work of Professor Jane Robinson, Dean of Engagement and Place, and the wider Engagement and Place team to create stronger local partnerships and build on the social and economic contribution it makes locally and internationally.

René is Senior Lecturer in the School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences and Director of the Newcastle University North Leadership Centre (NUNLC), an outward-facing centre for leadership, management and professional development.

Speaking of the appointment, René said: "I am delighted and honoured to have been appointed as lead for the Lifelong Learning and Professional Practice (LLLPP) agenda. This agenda contributes to the University's aim of making a difference to society and is embedded in all four university-wide strategies.

"For me, LLLPP is very much about enhancing people's life opportunities. I am really looking forward to be working with colleagues across the three faculties and four 'campuses' in shaping our Lifelong Learning offer, including Degree and Masters Level Apprenticeships and a LLLPP Community of Practice.

"One of the exciting challenges for us as an institution will be to create a Lifelong Learning offer that is demand-led but reflects our excellence in research, scholarship and education. In my experience, working on LLLPP projects over many years, I have found that achievements were only possible through collective efforts and listening to our regional, national and global stakeholders carefully.

"Over the next few weeks and months, I am really looking forward to learning about all the successful LLLPP activities already taking place across the university and meeting the various teams delivering on these. Also, I encourage colleagues to get in touch with any ideas about potential LLLPP projects, both within their own discipline or cross-disciplines."

Professor Julie Sanders, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, said: "I am absolutely delighted to be welcoming René to the team of Deans and other colleagues who are helping to take the new Vision and Strategy forwards. This role speaks to all of our guiding principles and has huge potential to connect our place-based work with the global agenda around skills development and lifelong learning."

René has served on the HaSS Faculty Promotion Committee since 2016 and he is one of the three academic leads of the University's Faculty Futures Programme. He is currently the Newcastle University lead for the National Centre for Excellence for Language Pedagogy (NCELP) led by York University.

The NUNLC works closely with local teaching schools in delivering the National Professional Qualifications for School Leadership, delivers leadership development programmes in partnership with NUBS for organisations in the region and offers leadership development programmes to educational organisations internationally.