

ECU hosts 2016 ATSE Eminent Speaker – CEO Water Corporation, Sue Murphy

The Western Australian Division of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) holds an annual Eminent Speakers Seminar to promote and advance the responsible and sustainable development of Western Australia. Fellows are men or women who are eminent by reason of their achievements in technological sciences or engineering.

One of the objectives of the Academy is to provide a forum for the study and discussion of issues relevant to the formulation of public policy for technological sciences and engineering based activities, and the communication of expert advice to Government and the community.

On the 28 June 2016, ECU was honoured along with the ATSE this year to host a seminar delivered by Sue Murphy, CEO of the Water Corporation of Western Australia. Sue is regularly selected by Engineers Australia as one of the top 100 most influential engineers in Australia and joined the Water Corporation in 2004 with responsibility for delivering of capital projects and long and short term planning. She was appointed CEO in 2008.

The ATSE Eminent Speaker Series was supported by ECU's Engagement unit, which facilitates initiatives aimed at raising aspirations in low SES primary and secondary students to attend tertiary education. Approximately 320 students from Year 8 to 10 who are interested in engineering and technology were invited to attend as part of an Experience Science and Engineering at ECU event. Schools included Joseph Banks Secondary College, Eastern Hills High school, Butler College, Belmont City College, Mirrabooka Senior High School, Bellbridge Senior High and Hampton Senior High.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Strategic Partnerships) and ECU Lead for the SAGE Pilot of the Athena SWAN Charter in Australia, Professor Cobie Rudd introduced Ms Murphy and discussed the importance of students pursuing studies in mathematics, science and technology with 75 per cent of the fastest growing occupations now requiring STEM skills and only 16% of women making up 2.3 million STEM-qualified Australians.



Ms Murphy reflected on how, in just a few generations, Perth's water supply has changed from being completely reliant on dams and rainfall, to supplying more than two million people with drinking water. Due to foresight and careful planning, Water Corporation is attracting global attention with its approach of investing in new water sources that are completely independent of rainfall. Using innovative technology such as Australia's first full-scale Groundwater Replenishment Scheme, WA's principal supplier of water in one of the driest corners of the Earth expects to achieve this remarkable goal by 2022.

If you are interested in getting involved with the ECU Engagement team, please contact us at engagement@ecu.edu.au or on (08) 6304 2652.