

CHANGES, CHALLENGES AND LEADERSHIP IN HIGHER EDUCATION

*Keynote Speaker:
Professor Jamie Cassels*

Drawing upon the research in the field, and 35 years of experience as a professor and university leader, Professor Cassels will provide a wide ranging overview of the changes and forces that have shaped higher education in the present day.

Drawing primarily upon the Canadian experience, but especially where that experience reflects global shifts, Professor Cassels will discuss the role of technology, globalization, economic factors, government policy and changing stakeholder expectations. He will outline the consequences and challenges presented by factors such as the massification of higher education, widened mandates for universities, rising expectations and multi-stakeholder accountability, and a resulting increase in organizational complexity.

The challenges faced by our global society and by the higher education sector offer opportunities for renewal and transformation, and for universities to contribute to the lives of people and their communities. Those opportunities include: leveraging the greater demand for universities; supplying the talent and ideas to deal with our world's most pressing problems; and rising to the challenge through excellence in both research and education.

Finally, Professor Cassels will reflect on the implications for higher education leadership and how leaders can help their institutions continue to thrive through understanding and shaping the campus culture, building and supporting leadership teams, and focusing on quality and impact.