



MEDIA RELEASE

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Global education leader Charles Fadel to address Australia's workforce skills challenge

One of the world's leading authorities on the future of education, including curriculum development and technological disruption, will be a keynote speaker at the 2018 World Congress of the World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics in Melbourne, 8 – 10 October.

Charles Fadel is the founder and chairman of the Center for Curriculum Redesign in Boston, Massachusetts. Over 25 years he has established a reputation as a global education thought leader, futurist, author and inventor, whose work spans schools, higher education, vocational education, workforce development and lifelong learning.

He is the co-author of best-selling book *21st Century Skills* and an earlier work, *Four Dimensional Education*.

Fadel's work emphasises the importance of foundational knowledge, but with a focus on what it consists of, and how it is structured in the learning process. He advocates moving away from a rigid and prescribed curriculum, towards key concepts and essential content needed by learners.

As a technology expert, including almost 13 years as Education Lead at Cisco Systems, he brings a unique perspective on automation and disruptive technologies and their impact on skills acquisition and learning.

TAFE Directors Australia CEO and WFCP Chair Craig Robertson said Charles Fadel's perspective comes at a critical time for the tertiary education sector.

"The curriculum we sign off for our students says a lot about how a country plans for its citizens to prosper in a changing world. Charles Fadel has a lot to offer Australia as we contemplate how to respond to disruption heading our way through automation.

"More than ever, vocational education and training needs a fundamental review of its approach."

The WFCP World Congress will bring together some 600 international delegates and speakers from around the globe to discuss issues across the skills and education landscape in a changing world of work.

Charles Fadel is available for interview while in Australia.

See the [World Congress website](#).

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TAFE Directors Australia is the peak national body representing 28 TAFE institutes, including six dual sector universities with TAFE divisions.