University of Worcester Staff Recognised on New Year Honours List

Three staff from the University of Worcester have been recognised on the New Year Honours List.

John Ryan, the University of Worcester’s Secretary and Pro Vice Chancellor (Students) has been awarded an MBE for his services to higher education; Professor Chris Robertson, former Head of the University’s Institute of Education, receives an MBE for services to Education and Senior Lecturer Ruth Jones has been awarded an OBE for services to victims of domestic and sexual violence.

As Pro Vice Chancellor (Students), John has lead responsibility for student engagement at the University, working with students and their representatives, including the Students’ Union. As Secretary, he is accountable for the effective governance of the University.

John joined the University in 2000 having worked in higher education management and administration since 1979, firstly at the (then) Wolverhampton Polytechnic and subsequently (from 1983) at the University of Birmingham where he held a number of posts.

Professor Robertson, formerly a primary school teacher, was appointed Head of Institute at the University in 2002, and has helped to develop its reputation as one of the country’s finest teacher training centres.

The University’s latest OFSTED inspection resulted in an outstanding rating – the highest possible grade - with inspectors noting both the outstanding teacher training provision and outstanding management.

The inspection, which took place in 2010, returned one of the best ever reports on the University’s Primary provision, and ensured that the University was one of a small number of teacher education institutions to earn an outstanding evaluation for its employment-based route.

Ruth Jones, Senior Lecturer, Researcher and Consultant specialising in Domestic and Sexual Violence, has played an instrumental role in championing education, research and support services both in the UK and internationally over the past decade.

She designed the UK’s first professional postgraduate qualification in domestic violence, which is approved by the Home Office, and is the University’s Lead in the development of the National Centre for the Study and Prevention of Violence and Abuse.

Ruth has been recognised locally, nationally and internationally for her work, and was named Worcestershire Woman of the Year in 2011 before being one of twelve women across the continent to be named as a Woman Inspiring Europe in 2012.

Professor David Green, Vice Chancellor and Chief executive of the University of Worcester said: “It is wonderful news that three of the talented, distinguished members of staff at the University of Worcester have been nationally honoured by Her Majesty The Queen in the 2014 New Year’s Honours.

“Ruth Jones OBE is an inspirational campaigner against domestic and sexual violence who is a sought after teacher by public authorities, concerned citizens and organisations around the world.

“Professor Chris Robertson MBE is an outstanding educationalist whose determined, imaginative leadership has helped make teacher training at the University of Worcester teacher some of the very best in Britain.

“John Ryan MBE, the University Pro Vice Chancellor Students, has championed inclusion and a positive approach to students from all backgrounds throughout the British Universities. He played a central role in making the University of Worcester the country’s fastest growing University. Alongside Ruth Jones, Chris Robertson and many other talented colleagues John has helped the University combine high academic standards with imaginative new courses meeting the needs of students and society.”

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