



The Global Foundation
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INNOVATIVE & ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION WITH DR. MICHAEL CROW

The Global Foundation was honoured to welcome the President of the Arizona State University, Dr. Michael Crow as the Foundations Conversations special guest. The members' exclusive event, which was held on Friday, 8th October, was moderated Australian Advisory Council Chairman, Professor Sir Edward Byrne AC.

Dr. Crow has cultivated an impressive career in education as a science and technology policy scholar and 'knowledge enterprise architect'. Prof Byrne, as a long-time colleague of Dr. Crow invited him to share his journey, particularly with what drew him to creating accessible and socially equitable higher education.

"I realised, as a young boy, the disparities of people", Dr. Crow recalled. On Christmas Eve, 1968, working on a boy scout project, he had collected enough food for a family for one year.

That same night **"Apollo 8 circled the moon, sent back live images and a switch went off in my head, something is seriously messed up here. We've got people living in wooden shacks and we've got objects circling the moon"**. This experience lit a fire within Dr. Crow to make an impact in accessible education and innovative technology.

Having already made significant impacts at Columbia University, New York, in particular with the creation of the Earth Centre, Dr. Crow has taken ASU to great heights over the past 20 years. ASU has been lauded as the 'Number 1 most innovative' school in America by US News & World report for seven years straight. Being a student-centric and technology-enabled university allows Dr. Crow and the team at ASU to focus on key global issues.

He believes America is an "unbelievably diverse place, with stresses and strains on our democracy that are fuelled by the lack of success of higher education across the totality of the country". Dr. Crow recognised that it was possible to design an "egalitarian, academically successful institution" that significantly impacted the community using culture change and technological innovation. This belief in "inclusion over



Dr. Michael Crow, ASU President

over exclusion" as a measure of success has led to ASU increasing intake from 40,000 degree-seeking students to 150,000 and doubling their graduation rates. The University is heavily involved in scores of economic and social projects.

To create this institutional change a major component has been "continuous innovation" which has resulted in their most innovative year in 2020 with 2021 exceeding it already, even as the struggles of the pandemic continue. "Our job is to be externally focused" which has led to empowering faculty and staff to succeed when innovating. It is clear that Dr. Crow sees opportunity in a challenge and hope where there is despair. He and his team at ASU are "aiming to help build an entire new economy from the challenge of climate change."

It was a truly inspiring and empowering discussion, and we encourage our members who were not able to attend, to view the video recording of the session, which will be made available to Foundation members, on the basis of individual requests, going forward. Please note this link is not available for public distribution.

We hope to see you at the next **Foundation Conversation**