

## Staffordshire University announces Chair-elect.

Staffordshire University's Board of Governors is pleased to announce the appointment of David Gage as its next Chair.

David takes up the role on August 1 in succession to Steve Burgin who will have served the maximum two terms in office totalling six years.

David joined the Board of Governors in June 2009 and was appointed Deputy Chair in 2011. He currently chairs the University's Audit and Risk, Nominations and Governance and Remuneration Committees as well as the University's Development Board.

David took early retirement from NatWest Bank PLC in 2000 having held a number of senior roles including that of Corporate Banking Director for Staffordshire and Shropshire. He is also deputy chair of The Stafford Railway Building Society, having served as chair for the last three years.

After taking the chair, David will oversee the University's decision to transfer computing and creative technology students to a main Stoke-on-Trent campus by September 2016.

"It's enormously exciting," said David. "The move to consolidate all students in the faculties of Arts and Creative Technologies and Computing, Engineering and Sciences onto our Stoke-on-Trent campus for the start of the 2016/7 academic year enables us to focus on further improving facilities.

"Over the last three years we have invested £48m in our buildings and facilities, primarily in Stoke, and we have recently announced further planned capital expenditure of £40m in Stoke, with students and staff uppermost in mind."

"However, I also want to stress that the University is every bit as committed to improving the facilities for health, nursing and midwifery students based in Stafford and Shrewsbury, which are also to benefit from substantial investment".

David said the University would continue to serve the wider region by committing to work with local, regional and international businesses as they strive to succeed in competitive global markets.

"This we will do by engaging our excellent research capabilities and business know-how. The Staffordshire University brand has been built over 100 years; and this centre of excellence for higher education, with some 1500 employees, contributes £350m to the local economy each year. We are a major Staffordshire business and major employer."

David, who was commissioned last year as a Deputy Lieutenant of Staffordshire, said he was motivated by the transformational difference the University makes to peoples' lives.

He added: "We must maximise the potential of every last student. I am energised by that challenge."

Meanwhile, Mike Herbert, Regional Director with St. Modwen Properties PLC, is to take up the role of Deputy Chair of Governors. Mike, who has worked for St. Modwen in North Staffordshire for 25 years, has overseen many major regeneration schemes including Festival Park, Etruria Valley, Trentham Lakes and the Trentham Estate and Gardens. He has served on the University Board for four years and he is also a Director and Past President of the Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce.

Mike said "The Board of Governors has a distinct role to play in supporting the University through the next crucial phase in its development and making sure the impacts are felt positively by the students. I have a deep knowledge and commitment to Staffordshire having worked in the area for over 40 years and want to use that knowledge to benefit the University.

Vice Chancellor, Professor Michael Gunn, said: "We are delighted by these strong appointments to our Board of Governors. I believe that David and Mike will be strong advocates for the University and great critical friends as we improve and develop.

"I would like to place on record my thanks to Steve Burgin who has served the University as its chair and who has contributed focus, direction, scrutiny and support to the role. Steve has been an excellent Chair and will be a hard act to follow. He is a great believer in Stoke-on-Trent and Stafford and in the University."

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Staffordshire University is developing to meet the needs of modern day learners and current and emerging industries. Vocationally inspired, the University offers courses across a wide range of subject areas. The Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014 determined that 78 per cent of the University's research is world leading or of international importance.