

Long Service Speech June 2019

Dear Colleagues

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this Long Service Award Ceremony today. Congratulations on achieving a significant milestone in your career.

It is indeed a special occasion- Special because we don't often get the opportunity to publically thank our staff for the many years of service that they have devoted to the institution. Today is about exactly that- publically acknowledging your loyalty, commitment and dedication over all these years. Such loyalty and dedication is something special in this day and age. In an age when job hopping is fashionable, the continual search for better opportunities and new experiences means that staff seldom stay longer than a few years. A Future Workplace survey conducted a few years ago found that the average person born between 1977 and 1997 could expect to have 15-20 jobs over the course of their working lives.

Compare that to our statistics from today's ceremony. A combined total of 4360 years worked with 247 people invited here today. Amongst that group is Mr Clive Galant who collects a certificate for 40 years of service. Myself, and Prof Marshall Sheldon are right behind you Mr Galant with our 10 years and 20 years of service, we hope to catch up with you one day! It is interesting to note that this event is the largest long service ceremony ever held and the reason we are at the Radisson instead of the Hotel School next door is because our numbers were too large to be hosted there, a good problem to have.

So in a sense this group represent a rare breed of employee. During your service you may have considered other attractive job offers but decided to remain at CPUT. I believe that is a reflection on the level of job satisfaction you must have felt.

Your institutional knowledge is irreplaceable and is what adds to the unique culture of CPUT. Many of you will recall the period of the merger, I commend



our colleagues who worked at the heritage institutions for assisting to maintain a stable environment during an unsettling period. And of course in recent years the crisis period also called on the collective strength and of staff members to stabilise the university during one of the most challenging times in higher education. Well done and thank you.

I hope that you have also benefitted from your experience at CPUT, that you have taken advantage of the opportunities to advance your personal and professional goals while working here. If you think back to a time when you started at CPUT and to where you are today, then I am certain that you will recognise considerable growth in your expertise, wisdom and capabilities.

As I conclude, may I request that you place that invaluable expertise and experience into mentoring up-and-coming staff so that they can one day make a similar contribution to the university.

We salute you for being loyal employees of CPUT. Congratulations again on this career milestone and I look forward to meeting you again at your next long service awards ceremony in a few years' time.

Thank You

