

## Chancellor

Dr Vishal Sikka is a globally-recognised innovator and business leader, who champions the transformative power of technology to amplify human potential and address extraordinary global challenges.

As the head of an information technology services multinational, Infosys, Dr Sikka splits his time between his home in Silicon Valley, the company's birthplace in Bangalore, India, and its offices and clients in over 30 countries.

Born and raised in India, he studied computer science at Syracuse University in New York and then gained entry to the elite computer science doctoral program at Stanford University. There he researched artificial intelligence (AI), among other things, and after gaining his PhD in 1996 he worked at Xerox's research labs and co-founded two start-ups.

He later joined one of the world's largest software companies, SAP, where for the next 12 years he held a number of senior roles, including being the company's first Chief Technology Officer and a member of its Executive Board. He initiated a focus on start-ups, driving venture investments and leading product incubation and co-innovation with customers. He is also credited with developing, and driving the success of, a revolutionary database and analytics engine, SAP's now-flagship product, HANA.

Dr Sikka joined Infosys in 2014 to help energise a transformation of the company and the larger IT services industry. He has introduced initiatives that set industry precedents, and is helping companies leverage advances in AI and machine learning. He is also promoting grassroots innovation, and fostering the creativity of Infosys people through a culture of learning.

Under his leadership, Infosys has grown to have a global workforce of almost 200,000 (with an office in Brisbane) and revenues of \$US9.5 billion. He has earmarked a \$US500 million innovation fund for start-up investments, reserving half for Indian entrepreneurs.

His big-thinking extends to sustainability, as seen in the aim to achieve carbon neutrality at the Infosys campus in Hyderabad, India, by 2018.

Dr Sikka is passionate about education and discovery. Infosys has a large corporate university in Mysore, and two non-profit foundations - one in India and the other in the USA. Both are committed to education for the digital age, and the American foundation, which is chaired by Dr Sikka's wife, Vandana, supports high-quality

education in computer science and coding skills, particularly in underrepresented communities.

Dr Sikka remains active in research and collaboration with industry and universities. He engages with a non-profit AI research company, Open AI, and partners with leading educational institutions across the globe. He addressed a UQ Alumni Lecture Series lunch in 2013 and, when he was with SAP, he facilitated the donation of a high performance computing machine to UQ for data analytics research and learning.

Chancellor, I present to you Dr Vishal Sikka, Bachelor of Science of Syracuse University and Doctor of Philosophy of Stanford University, for the award of Doctor of Engineering *honoris causa*, bestowed by the Senate of The University of Queensland.