

CITATION
Award of Doctor of Science *honoris causa*
Brian P. Schmidt

Chancellor,

Professor Brian Schmidt is a distinguished astrophysicist who has contributed greatly to our understanding of how the universe works.

He shared the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2001 and the Shaw Prize in Astronomy in 2006. He is an Australian Research Council Laureate Fellow at the Australian National University Mount Stromlo Observatory and Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics.

Professor Schmidt explores supernovae stars and chases gamma ray bursts. He serves on the Questacon National Science and Technology Centre Advisory Council and leads the SkyMapper Telescope Project at Australian National University, helping map the entire southern sky.

His contributions to the fields of physics and astronomy have been recognised from early in his career, when he was named the Most Outstanding Student in Physics at The University of Arizona in 1989.

From there, he went on to receive many awards, including the Harvard-Danforth Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Bok Prize for outstanding astronomical thesis, the Australian Government's inaugural Malcolm McIntosh Prize, the Gruber Prize for Cosmology and a Dirac Medal awarded to scientists who have made significant contributions to theoretical physics.

At Mount Stromlo Observatory Professor Schmidt formed a team to measure the expected deceleration of the universe. His work led to the discovery of dark energy, a repulsive force that is the dominant component of the universe.

This research presented the first evidence that the universe's expansion rate is accelerating and was named *Breakthrough of the Year* by Science Magazine in 1998.

This isn't the first time Professor Schmidt has been recognized for his leadership in astronomy. He has also received Honorary Doctorates from The University of Arizona, Universidad de Chile and Macquarie University.

Chancellor, in recognition of his distinguished career, and his contribution to The University of Queensland, I present to you Professor Brian Schmidt, Bachelor of Physics and Astronomy, The University of Arizona; Master of Arts (Astronomy), Harvard University and PhD in Astronomy, Harvard University, for the award of Doctor of Science *honoris causa* bestowed by the Senate of The University of Queensland.