



MEDIA RELEASE

MindChamps Founder CEO Conferred with Prestigious Doctor of Letters (*honoris causa*) by Western Sydney University

Recognition honours David Chiem's contributions to education.

Australia, 11 June – Western Sydney University has conferred a Doctor of Letters (*honoris causa*) on David Chiem, Founder CEO and Executive Chairman of MindChamps.

A Doctor of Letters (*honoris causa*) is a higher doctorate and among the highest honours a university can bestow. Reserved for distinguished individuals whose achievements have contributed to the advancement of knowledge and the betterment of society, the award recognises sustained impact and eminence in one's field at a local, national or international level.

The award was conferred by Western Sydney University, ranked No. 1 globally in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2025 for the fourth consecutive year.

The recognition reflects David's longstanding commitment to challenging and lifting education standards globally through research, innovation and the nurturing of every child's full potential.



From left to right: Professor Jennifer Westacott AC, Chancellor of Western Sydney University; Dr David Chiem, Founder CEO and Executive Chairman of MindChamps; and Distinguished Professor George Williams AO, Vice-Chancellor and President of Western Sydney University.
Photo by Western Sydney University

In recognising David's contributions, Professor Jennifer Westacott AC, Chancellor of Western Sydney University, said: "You remind us, just by your presence and by your achievements, of the power of education, the power of entrepreneurship, and the importance of not taking things for granted. We are so honoured that you are part of our university community."

MINDCHAMPS PRESCHOOL LIMITED

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Over the past two decades, David has championed a research-based approach to education that integrates Education, Psychology, Neuroscience and Theatre. Through MindChamps, this work has helped shape learning experiences for children, educators and families across multiple countries, contributing to new thinking in early childhood education and human development.

What began as an education research centre in Sydney, Australia has grown into a global education movement headquartered in Singapore. Today, MindChamps operates more than 200 centres across multiple international markets and is the first and only education organisation in the world to attain patent status for its education methodology across four major territories: Australia, the US, UK and Singapore, reflecting a commitment to research, innovation and educational excellence.

The impact of David's work continues through collaborations with leading institutions. Last year, MindChamps partnered with Western Sydney University to establish the Western Sydney University–MindChamps Academy for Early Childhood Innovation, bringing together academic research and educational practice to help lift standards in Australian early childhood education.



David also serves as Chairman of Actors Centre Australia (ACA), one of Australia's leading acting schools, whose alumni include its patron, Hugh Jackman. Under his leadership, ACA partnered with Western Sydney University to help revitalise performing arts education in Western Sydney, including the return of the Bachelor of Performing Arts (Acting) after an 18-year hiatus.

Reflecting on the honour, David said Western Sydney University had played a pivotal role in shaping his outlook on life and education. "Western Sydney University is special to me because it is the place that opened my mind — right here from Western Sydney to the world," he said.

Addressing the graduating class of 2026, David shared the three msets that had guided him throughout his journey: to always be grateful; to remain hungry to learn and thirsty to ask what he did not know; and to approach every opportunity with the conviction of asking, "Why not me?"

He left graduates with a final reminder to believe in their own potential and author their own future: "Always ask yourself, 'Why not me?' — and don't let anybody, anybody, including AI, write your story."

Appendix A: Citation for the Conferral of the Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) - Distinguished Professor George Williams AO, Vice-Chancellor and President of Western Sydney University

Appendix B: Full Transcript of David Chiem's Occasional Address to the Western Sydney University Class of 2026

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About MindChamps

MindChamps is a global leader in early learning and preschool education, recognised for its patented research-backed curriculum and commitment to nurturing the Champion Mindset in children. With centres across Singapore, Australia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Myanmar the Maldives and soon, the US, MindChamps continues to advance its mission of challenging and lifting education standards worldwide.

"MindChamps is the Global Education Movement of the 21st Century.

While the companies featured in my prior books (Mercedes-Benz, The Ritz Carlton Hotel Company and Starbucks) demonstrate impressive brand power, none have been in a position to fundamentally shape society on par with MindChamps."

Dr Joseph A. Michelli

No. 1 New York Times & Wall Street Journal Bestselling Author

While there are thousands of education brands across world, only MindChamps:

1. Is hailed as a Global Education Movement by No. 1 New York Times and Wall Street Journal bestselling author, Dr Joseph A. Michelli.
2. Has successfully created a breakthrough education methodology that has attained patent programme status across four continents - the US (Patent No: 11,790,800), UK (Patent No: GB2607416), Australia (Patent No: 2022202096) and Singapore (Patent No: 10202113952V).
3. Has world-renowned neuroscientist Emeritus Professor Allan Snyder, Fellow of the Royal Society and Marconi Prize Winner, as its Chancellor and Chair of the MindChamps Global Research & Programme Development Team, comprising of award-winning, world leading experts in the 4 Domains of • Education • Psychology • Neuroscience • Theatre
4. Has created the revolutionary 3-Mind Education Model - the Champion, Learning and Creative Minds.
5. Has a proprietary Reading & Writing programme backed by research, producing over 200 eBooks.
6. Has the proven Optimal Flow Method™ and Art of Learning techniques, along with Champion Mindset coaching, which have enabled students to achieve up to 6 grade improvements in English, Maths, Science and Chinese, as verified by Forvis Mazars, a leading internationally integrated partnership, specialising in audit, accountancy, advisory and tax services.
7. Has been accorded the WIPO-IPOS IP Award by the World Intellectual Property Organization for excellence in the brand's Trademark Portfolio.
8. Requires all its teachers to undergo up to 200 hours of professional training and accreditation, regardless of previous teaching experience or qualifications.

9. Has its research and education philosophy published in 4 bestselling books by major world publishing houses.
10. Nurtures every child to face the unpredictable world with the mindset of 100% Respect, Zero Fear!