

The founding Director of Flinders University's multi-award winning New Venture Institute, Matt Salier, has accepted a role at RMIT.

The New Venture Institute was founded in 2013, at the time the third such focused University initiative nationally. Over the past six and a half years the activities of the Institute have grown to deliver accredited topics to degree programs across Flinders, now covering 70% of the University. Simultaneously the growth of acceleration and incubation activities has seen expansion into the Limestone Coast, Barossa Yorke Mid North, Northern NSW regions and industry verticals of innovative manufacturing, social enterprise, youth and water.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Colin Stirling says Flinders is renowned for fostering bold, entrepreneurial thinking and its leadership in the business incubator space.

"The Asia-Pacific's top university-based business incubator, our New Venture Institute has in some six years established itself as an enterprise entity to which others aspire."

The New Venture Institute anchors Flinders presence at the Tonsley Innovation Precinct, linking students, startups, researchers and small businesses in a dynamic environment crucial to South Australia's transformation.

"Matt has done an exceptional job - under his enthusiastic and passionate leadership NVI has created more than 350 start-ups and upskilled thousands of students through to executives in entrepreneurship and innovation.

Outgoing Director, Matt Salier says the time at Flinders has been a unique journey.

"It is rare to have the opportunity to build something so visionary from the ground up and I feel fortunate to have had the support of the current Vice-Chancellor, Professor Colin Stirling, and my first "boss" here previous Vice Chancellor, Professor Michael Barber. The trust and faith they've both placed in me and my amazing team to build NVI has been tremendous."

"I'm excited by the opportunity to again help contribute to a vision increasing how innovative and entrepreneurial students access the tools we entrepreneurs apply every day.

It's hard to identify one highlight of my time at NVI. I have been so lucky to be surrounded by a wonderful team, supportive colleagues and brilliant and creative entrepreneurs. The way the South Australian business community has embraced NVI's activities over the years, including the sage guidance of the NVI Advisory Council, has been something I have been particularly grateful for. I'm sure the relationships I've built here will endure as I move into the next phase of my own entrepreneurial journey"

"Flinders will undertake a search for NVI's next director in due course" Professor Stirling says.

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