

Pro-Chancellor,

Dr Jan Peters MBE is a champion for diversity in science and engineering and campaigns to achieve inclusion in education and industry. In 2017, she was awarded an MBE in recognition of her achievements.

Jan was originally inspired to follow a career in science journalism after reading a magazine article by explorer, Jacques Cousteau. A careers advice session at school suggested a degree in chemistry and oceanography; a route later confirmed when Jan closed her eyes and stuck a pen in the university course listings handbook.

Keen to strike out and move away from her home near Manchester, she applied to study the subject at the University of Plymouth. Jan learnt the value of persistence early on when, having failed to achieve the A-level grades required, she made daily calls to the head of faculty until she was offered a place four days later. Fascinated by the science of small things, Jan went on to achieve a PhD in Electronics Materials and to build a career in the development of semiconductors.

Her pioneering approach and propensity to challenge the status quo led to an invitation to join the Women's Engineering Society, of which she later became President. Jan then realised her early career aspirations to combine science and the media as she was invited to lead a regular slot on BBC's Woman's Hour.

Throughout her career, Jan has continually campaigned for a more inclusive science and engineering industry; a fact she puts down to being born with an extra fairness gene. This includes work to change mind sets, promote the value of diversity in teamwork and remove inherent race and gender biases in product development. She is particularly proud of her work to develop protective work wear for women, which ensures that women can perform tasks safely and comfortably.

In 2004, Jan founded and became Managing Director of Katalytik, a consultancy dedicated to working with educators and science and engineering employers to achieve greater equality. Her message to today's young people is that exam success, or failure, will not define your future. Success is about what other experiences and expertise you can bring, which means making the most of every opportunity.

Pro-Chancellor, I have the honour to present Dr Jan Peters MBE, and I ask you to confer upon her the degree of Doctor of Engineering, *honoris causa*.

