

CHAMPIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Hon. A. Anne McLellan

CHANCELLOR, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

What led to your commitment to higher education and university governance?

As I tell everyone, Dalhousie made the rest of my life possible. I was born on a farm outside Truro in the 1950's. Not a lot of young people, especially girls, were going to university, but I had parents who believed in higher education for their children. Becoming Chancellor, when I was asked, was a way to give back to an institution that had given me so much, including life-long friends.

What impresses you the most about today's students?

Their desire to "make things better". They are not afraid of taking on the big problems of our world, as they see them. And their impatience — they want to fix things now — improve things now. They have little patience at being told to "take their time" or slow down.

What is your vision for the role of universities in the region's future?

Universities in the Atlantic Region will be the incubators for much of the innovation that will take place and for the jobs that flow from that innovation. Universities will be hubs out from which creativity, entrepreneurship, discovery and imagination will be driven in the larger region. They will also be magnets for talented young people, both those who come from elsewhere and those born in the Region who see a reason to stay.

