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I am currently Head of the Department of Computing and Creative Technology at Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU), a multidisciplinary and dynamic unit within the School of Engineering and Computing. The Department's research focus is Design and Experience, drawing in staff expertise from across the computing and digital design spectrum to extend knowledge to increase the positive impact of digital products through appropriate design. Our strength is in commercially relevant work and much of our research is carried in partnership with our industrial partners. Our teaching portfolio draws on our research and is equally applied in focus, we link technical content to professional certification where possible, and provide many opportunities to engage in realistic problem based learning.

I am personally fascinated both by technology and by people and particularly by the interactions between them. I have over 20 years experience in the human factors research area, initially at the Human Sciences and Advanced Technology (HUSAT) Research Institute in Loughborough and at Glasgow Caledonian. Most of my research has been in user-focused development and information visualisation for Decision Support technologies. I am also passionate about widening participation in Higher Education and in science and technology in particular. I was instrumental in the development of the GCU's Caledonian Club, a long-term initiative whose practical value was recognised in a win at this year's THE awards.

As a successful manager, communicator and change agent I believe I have a lot to offer the CPHC committee in its pursuit of a better deal for our sector. The next few years will be challenging for most universities, and particularly for those most vulnerable to cuts in public funding. As the recent THE magazine indicates Scottish Universities are some of the most at risk from these changes and my own institute is near the top of the list. My personal interest in the forthcoming debates and lobbying activities will ensure an energetic and vocal contribution, which I believe will benefit everyone.