

Pro-Chancellor

Lawrence Vincent worked for Bournemouth and Poole College for over 20 years culminating in a seven-year term as the Principal and Chief Executive. Lawrence used his time at the College to raise the profile of vocational education and to promote social cohesion, building on his career as a teacher and youth worker both in the UK and in the US. He is particularly keen on championing the rights of disadvantaged students.

Lawrence has always loved music, and after graduating from Greenwich University he joined the record company EMI and started promoting and managing young bands. The music scene introduced him to a local community radio station, and it ignited a passion to get involved in social issues and to fight for the rights of young people. He became a youth worker in London whilst undertaking teacher training, and then in his late 20's he jumped at the opportunity to move to Boston, Massachusetts. His time in Boston was spent teaching maths and English in a juvenile correction facility, a job which he admits was tough. Lawrence returned to the UK to work in the college sector in the 1990s.

In addition to his full-time teaching and leadership roles at Bournemouth and Poole College, Lawrence played a national role in setting up the Mindset Group – an organisation committed to preparing students for work. He has also volunteered his time to many other organisations. He was an inaugural Board member of the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership, a Trustee of Poole Arts Trust and a Trustee of several other community organisations.

Lawrence believes that everyone can achieve given the right support, and that local economies are about people and not just financial models. He still harbours a desire to open his own jazz club, but for now he is setting up his own company to help colleges develop their ethical values and behaviours, to benefit the most disadvantaged in society,

Pro-Chancellor, I have the honour to present Lawrence Vincent, and I ask you to confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Education, honoris causa.