

HONORARY DOCTORATE FOR JAMES SHERA

The Equality and Inclusion Partnership (EQUIP) is delighted with the news that its Chair, Dr James Shera MBE, has been awarded an honorary doctorate by Coventry University. The award is in recognition of James' contribution to intercultural and interfaith harmony and multicultural education.

Coventry University has seen a rapid growth over the recent years and is rated as internationally excellent or of a world leading standard. The university is now a hub for diverse learners from around the world, with campuses in Singapore, Dubai, Poland and more locally in Scarborough, London and a second campus in Coventry.

The award has come as a surprise to James, only having received an honorary doctorate weeks earlier from the Forman Christian College University in Lahore, Pakistan. These awards add to the list of James' existing accolades of being the longest serving Pakistani councillor in the UK, being awarded the Star of Pakistan for services to community and interfaith relations, an MBE in 2007 and becoming an Honorary Freeman of Rugby Borough in 2017.

James came to the UK in 1971 from Pakistan, having studied in both countries and starting his career as a teacher in Rugby. James was able to develop links in his local community, in wider multi faith communities across the UK, and through his extensive connections in Pakistan, he soon established a platform for multicultural and multifaith dialogue for peace and prosperity between the UK and Pakistan.

Junaid Hussain, Chief Executive of EQUIP, commented, 'We are absolutely delighted for James and are so proud of his recent award from Coventry University and all of his achievements over the years. It is an honour to have James as Chair of our countywide organisation, which has benefited from his experience and knowledge from interfaith, multicultural education and developing good relations between different communities and faith groups from around the world.'

Junaid added, 'We have all had our recent challenges and after a devastating year, we will certainly be celebrating James' enormous achievements, when we are able to resume face to face contact'.

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