

Professor Cori Stewart wins CEW and Actuaries Institute Women Leaders in AI and Data Science Scholarship

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Professor Cori Stewart — founder and CEO of the Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing Hub (ARM Hub) — has been awarded the [2026 Actuaries Institute Women Leaders in AI and Data Science Scholarship](#).

The scholarship, a joint initiative between the Actuaries Institute and Chief Executive Women (CEW), recognises Professor Stewart as one of the country's biggest advocates for practical AI adoption. It will enable her to further her impact by attending the Stanford Graduate School of Business Executive Program in Leadership in the United States.

Through ARM Hub, Australia's leading not-for-profit industrial innovation centre, Professor Stewart has successfully guided hundreds of companies through AI, robotics and manufacturing scale-up projects, delivering productivity gains and strengthening national capability. Working at the intersection of industry, research, investment and government, she aims to deliver on a vision for Australian manufacturing to reach 8% of GDP, a 40% increase.

"AI matters when it stops being a technology conversation and starts changing how work gets done. The material opportunity for the Australian economy is rapid widespread adoption of AI. It is in applying AI to the industries we are already good at and using it to make high-value production viable here." Professor Stewart said.

Appointed by the Prime Minister to the Board of Industry Innovation and Science Australia, she also serves on the Board of the Queensland Manufacturing Institute. Professor Stewart is a passionate advocate for responsible AI, including embodied AI in robotics as essential tools for Australia's next era of industrial growth.

"Attending the Stanford program will make me a little more dangerous - in the best possible way. Less constrained by the habit of running hard, clearer about the scale of need and opportunity ahead, and more deliberate in my actions to bring people and partners with me. What a remarkable opportunity." Professor Stewart added.

Actuaries Institute President Scott Reeves said: "We are at an inflection point. AI is fundamentally changing how economies grow, how industries compete and how leaders make decisions. Australia's AI potential is only as strong as the leaders driving it which is why we support senior women who are at the forefront of that transformation. It is not just good for diversity — it is good for Australia."

Now in its fourth year, the scholarship is building a growing cohort of senior women leading AI across Australia.

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