**University of Manchester Medal of Honour**

**Presented to Andrew Brode on 28 February 2024**

**Citation:**

We are privileged to present Andrew Brode to receive the Medal of Honour, in recognition of his philanthropic endeavour and his contribution to sustainable entrepreneurship.

A graduate of our University, Andrew owns the world’s leading language services company, RWS Group, which he bought in 1995 and served as Executive Chairman until 2023. Andrew remains on the company board. Education is Andrew’s personal passion. Together with RWS, he has made generous donations to the University to fund the RWS Brode Scholarships, which is supporting up to 80 students studying languages at Manchester. The students are also mentored by RWS graduate staff and offered internships at RWS over the summer. It is a shining example of what philanthropy – at individual and corporate level – can enable to change lives. All of this was driven by Andrew’s passion and commitment to help young people to thrive.

Born and raised in the West Midlands, the son of refugees from Nazi Germany, Andrew attended King Edward VI’s School in Birmingham before attending the Victoria University of Manchester and graduating with a BA in Commerce in 1962.

After early spells in accountancy and banking he entered the world of business-to-business publishing. As Managing Director of Croner Publications, he built the company up and sold it to Wolters Kluwer, the global publishing firm, and later, as CEO of Wolters Kluwer in the UK, expanded its UK sales to £80 million in the 1980s.

In 1990, Andrew led the management buy-out of Eclipse Group, which became a leading subscription-based journal and conference organiser, before being sold to Reed Elsevier in 2000. He was also appointed as Chairman of Axco Insurance Information Services by 3i and sold it to Wilmington plc in 2010.

But it was his next acquisition, of RWS, in 1995, and subsequent floating of the company in 2003, that cemented Andrew’s reputation as one of Britain’s greatest tech entrepreneurs. RWS is now the world’s leading technical translation, localisation, intellectual property search and life sciences language services business, with a market capitalisation of almost £1 billion. Headquartered in Buckinghamshire, with offices worldwide, the company employs over 2,000 people. And RWS Holdings has recently been awarded an EcoVadis Silver medal for its exceptional implementation of sustainability targets.

Just one-billion-pound business not being enough of a challenge for someone as personally driven as Andrew, he is also the Chairman of Learning Technologies Group plc, a provider of training software for workers in industries as diverse as mining and medicine. Today LTG, which Andrew acquired in 2008 and listed on AIM in 2013, is Europe’s largest e-learning and talent management group, and has been valued at around £1 billion. He also holds a number of other directorships of technology companies.

A dedicated philanthropist, Andrew and his wife Diane have been long-standing donors to United World Schools where, together with his wife Diane, they have funded the building of schools in Cambodia and Nepal. He has also made several donations to his former school in Birmingham, King Edward VI, to fund the development of a new modern languages department, science laboratories, sixth form centre, and the Andrew Brode Sports Centre, opened in 2019.

But languages are his great passion, and his commitment – along with that of RWS – to supporting modern languages students from underprivileged backgrounds here at the University of Manchester has been immensely valuable – valuable to those deserving students who have benefited and also valuable to our University because of the example it sets to others.

The University’s Medal of Honour is the highest non-degree award bestowed by the University. It recognises individuals who have made an outstanding and sustained contribution to the work of the University. Andrew richly embodies these qualities.

Ladies and gentlemen, we invite you all to show your warm appreciation as we confer the University’s Medal of Honour on Mr Andrew Brode in recognition of his generosity and far-sightedness towards our institution.