

## ULRICH HERWANGER ON RECEIVING THE AACII SPECIAL AWARD NEW GENERATION



It is a great pleasure and honour for me to receive this award today, even though this honour does not really belong to me, but to all the children and young people whom I have had the privilege of accompanying and supporting in their projects and work during my career.

I do not see my contribution to the advancement of our society so much in developing solutions myself, but rather in recognising talent, giving young people the opportunity to recognise their potential and develop it in the best possible way, motivating them and bringing the right people together. At this point, I would like to express my special thanks to all my companions and supporters. The

best things happen when the right people come together at the right time and in the right place.

My journey to this point has been shaped mainly by important encounters, provoked coincidences and the recognition of unexpected opportunities. An unusual mentor at Jugend forscht (Youth Research) was my introduction to mentoring work. A school trial run by the Bavarian Education Pact led me to bring together teachers from all scientific disciplines at my school to plan, implement and replicate interdisciplinary, forward-looking teaching projects throughout Bavaria. Finally, meeting the VDI Future Pilots at a Jugend forscht regional competition led to the establishment of a joint student research centre.

The logical consequence is that, as Bavarian state competition director of the Jugend forscht competition, I now bring together schools, business, science, the start-up scene and interested, talented, knowledge-hungry young people: experience, overview, excellence and youthful enthusiasm.



We don't want to simply let our future 'happen'; we want to shape it together according to our ideas and wishes, to the best of our knowledge and belief. I accept this award as a thank you for my commitment to this mission so far and, even more so, as an incentive to continue with passion, not to give up even in the face of adversity, and to inspire new comrades-in-arms.