



UNIVEN's Department of Youth in Development held a successful Student Workshop on Accessing Job Opportunities

As part of celebrating 40 years anniversary, the University of Venda's Department of Youth in Development invited National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) to conduct Job Preparedness Training which was aimed at linking the students to employment and other development-related opportunities. This was to commemorate the 1976 uprising wherein youth bravely fought against the system of Bantu Education in response to the introduction of Afrikaans as the medium of instruction in local schools. The event took place at the University Auditorium on Wednesday, 15 June 2022.



Mr Ndivhuwo Mbulaheni, a Training Officer representing NYDA, presented the Job Preparedness Programme to the youth who attended the Youth Day celebration that took place a day before the main celebration of June 16. In his presentation he said, "the NYDA was established to address unemployment. The challenge youth is faced with today is money, NYDA is a link between youth and money." He urged students to go to school and get a qualification. Mr Mbulaheni said students should build their profile. "A qualification does not make you employable, your skills and the way you compile your CV." All students who attended and registered on the NYDA system will receive the certificates of attendance which will play a vital role in the labour market. The targeted audience were youth between 18-35 years.



The University Registrar, Advocate Edward Lambani during his welcome and opening remarks mentioned how impressed he was with the number of participants. He acknowledged every student who managed to attend the workshop. "You are the most important people in this institution because you are the ones concerned about our history", highlighted Adv Lambani. He said the students can change history for the better and they are the future. Adv Lambani said "commemorating Youth Day is a revival of where we come from and where we are going".



Presenting the purpose of gathering, Prof Tsoaledi Daniel Thobejane stated that the future of young people is in their hands. He said the chances of people getting to higher education in 1976 was slim and the youth of 1976 paved way so that students of today can get their certificate and contribute to the socio-economic development of the country.

The University of Venda's Department of Youth in Development was launched in 1999 and as a pioneering Department on issues relating to youth and development, has so far, graduated more than 2000 youth activists who continue to play leadership roles in various sectors locally and internationally.



"A qualification does not make you employable, your skills and the way you compile your CV."

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Some of the attendees posing for a photo with the NYDA Guest speaker Ndivhuwo Mbulaheni (middle - the front row)



Introducing the keynote speaker, Dr Harry Mukwevho who is the Senior Lecturer in Department of Youth in Development, reflected on the issue of Bantu education. He said Bantu Education was unethical.



Head of Department of Youth in Development, Dr Thizwilondi Mudau reflected on the presentation on Accessing Job Opportunities. Dr Mudau said students should know what to write on their CVs to build great profiles.



Director of Education in the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education, Prof Tawanda Runhare thanked participants for attending the event. He thanked the organisers of the event and applauded them for acknowledging that students are the future and need to respond to national issues. "Education is the most important weapon to fight poverty."

"Education is the most important weapon to fight poverty."



The Department of Labour was also represented by Ms Ntsieni Nkhunane who is a Career Counsellor. She urged students to register their information on the department website to stand a better chance of getting employment.



Students queuing to register on the NYDA Database



Director of Marketing, Branding and Communication, Dr Takalani Dzaga was the programme director. Dr Dzaga highlighted that this event is intended to equip students with the opportunity to get employment.

University of Venda Student Affairs Department embark on Plant a Tree Initiative

On Wednesday, 15 June 2022, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) Student Housing Unit, under the Department of Student Affairs held a Plant a Tree Initiative at New Female Student Residence. This is the largest UNIVEN residence on-campus accommodation that accommodates a capacity of 904 students. The event was a partnership between Student Housing Unit and Green Campus Initiative (GCI) which is a student and staff led organisation under the Department of Student Affairs. GCI was launched at ICC Durban under COP 17 on 25 August 2012 with the aim of creating an eco-friendly lifestyle in the institutions. Its main objective is to create environmental sustainability and bring awareness to students about climate change and most importantly, to promote residences to be conducive environment for living.



As she welcomes the participants and outlines the purpose of the event, Ms Ndivhudza Mudau said, as a Department, they want to ensure that students have a sense of belonging in the residences, "we want them to have a home away from home feeling." The Student Affairs Department realised that with the Plant a Tree initiative, they will be able to transform the environment and play a key role to the students.

The main purpose of this event was to engage with UNIVEN community about the significance of planting trees and to create awareness to students and staff members to be environmentally conscious.

The University Registrar, Advocate Edward Lambani mentioned that UNIVEN was established in a very green environment. It was called "minngoni" because the place was full of Mango trees. Five trees were planted



Adv Edward Lambani (holding a spade) and Mr Khamusi Nefhere next to a newly planted Olive tree



Students planting a tree

and Adv Lambani, on behalf of the University planted the Wild Olive (Mutwari) tree. "Let us rejoice in the green of our campus", he concluded. Other trees that were planted are Natal Mahogany (Mutshikili); Cape Ash (Mutobvuma); Karee (Mushakaladza) and Fever tree (Munzhelenga).

Other messages of support came from the Director of Student Affairs, Mr Azwidowi Mukheli; Grounds Units represented by Mr Khamusi Nefhere; Housing Representative Committee (HRC) was represented by Mr Luthingi Vhutshilo, and Vhembe Biosphere Reserve was also represented by Ms Rerani Ramaano.



The SRC Secretary General, Junior Magagula said this is a great initiative and encouraged students to do likewise. Mr Magagula suggested that other residences including off campus accredited residences should follow suit.



The programme was facilitated by Mr Mfaniseni Mnguni, who is the Chief Clerk Hostel Warden: Student Housing Unit under the Department of Student Affairs.



VBR Youth Network Chairperson, Mr Ntakuseni Godzwana holding the tree that he was about to plant



UNIVEN researcher selected for prestigious Fulbright scholar programme



Prof. Jude J.O. Odhiambo, a Professor of Soil Science and the interim Deputy Dean, Teaching and Learning in the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture has been selected for the 2022-2023 Fulbright South African Research Scholar Programme (SARSP), after a long application and interview process. Prof. Odhiambo's area of specialisation is in soil fertility and plant nutrition and his research work focuses on soil fertility management comprising cropping systems that improve soil health; sustainable land use management; soil and water conservation; mineral and organic plant nutrition; impacts of agricultural management practices on nutrients, especially nitrogen; climate

change mitigation and adaptation in agroecosystems, soil carbon. His latest research has been on the use of biochar as a soil amendment to improve soil fertility and productivity.

Prof. Odhiambo will undertake his Fulbright programme at Florida International University (FIU) in Miami, Florida, USA and will be hosted by Prof. Krish Jayachandran, a professor of environmental microbiology/soil science in the Department of Earth and Environment. During his visit to FIU, Prof. Odhiambo will continue with his research work on biochar and will focus on how biochar and starter nitrogen applied at different rates influences chickpea root characteristics and subsequent nutrient uptake. This is an exciting project that can provide results that can benefit the American, South African, and international food security. Utilisation of biochar to promote sustainable chickpea cultivation can enhance the use of protein supplements for human nutrition. Furthermore, biochar applications not only enhance crop production, but also promote soil health and quality by increased carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation.

Prof. Odhiambo is a C2 NRF rated researcher. The Executive Dean Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture, Prof. Ntebogeng Mokgalaka-Fleischmann on behalf of the University, wished him a safe and successful trip to Florida International University (FIU) in Miami, Florida, USA.

UNIVEN join hands with NEHAWU to donate boxes of Sanitary towels and bottled water



On Tuesday, 21 June 2022, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) donated boxes of Sanitary towels and UNIVEN branded bottled water to Tshilidzini Special School as part of NEHAWU's 35 years celebration. These boxes of sanitary towels and bottled water were handed

over to NEHAWU Regional Office by the Executive Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Mrs. Esther Munano on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal. The donated items were received by NEHAWU Regional Secretary, Mr. Silas Rongolo.

Personal development, being innovative and having a willing heart are key factors of growth in the workplace



During the month of June, Nendila Newsletter had a chat with the University of Venda (UNIVEN)'s Acting Director Revenue and Financial Aid, Ms. Tshilidzi Ramulondi. Ms. Ramulondi joined UNIVEN on the 1st of September 2017 as the Manager: Financial Aid. When she joined UNIVEN, Ms. Ramulondi was coming from the country's Crime Intelligence, managing Secret Services Account where she was serving as the Deputy Director between 01 March 2010 and 31 August 2017.

She said she is one of the fortunate employees of UNIVEN because while she was working as the Manager: Financial Aid, she was later interviewed for the position of Manager: Income. Ms. Ramulondi mentioned that this was more of a lateral movement but more engaged to the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as she wanted to move from purely administrative tasks to tasks that allow her to engage with accounting standards. "Little did I know that my movements within would make

my role relevant and earmarked for Senior Management role."

Ms. Ramulondi is a hardworking and dedicated UNIVEN alumna. She said she joined UNIVEN because she felt that it would be best to bring these qualities and capabilities home where her career began.

Her advice to other UNIVEN staff members is that commitment, dedication, and good attitude towards fellow colleagues pay. "Personal development, being innovative and having a willing heart assist in career development and growth in the workplace. Be the change you want to see," she concluded.

Ms. Ramulondi holds an Honours degree with specialisation in Financial Accounting from UNISA and she is also a Professional Accountant SA affiliated with the South African Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA) and is now at advanced stage of her Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree with Henley Business School.

"Personal development, being innovative and having a willing heart assist in career development and growth in the workplace. Be the change you want to see."

Executive Management and Senior Managers review the University's 2022 MidTerm Performance



Executive Management and Senior Managers posing for a group photo outside the venue where the workshop was taking place

The University of Venda Executive Management and Senior Managers participated in a two-day workshop to review the 2022 Mid-Term performance. The workshop took place at Euphoria Golf and Lifestyle Estate, Mookgophong from 23 – 24 June 2022. During the workshop, comprehensive presentations were made by the University divisional heads.



When welcoming the delegates, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni shared his presentation that was all about Mid-Term Review Focus, Overview of University, Operating Model, Graduate Profile, Background on 2021 – 2025 Strategic Plan, Review of Strategy implementation, Role of Executive and Senior Management as key drivers and Stakeholder involvement.

In his presentation, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal indicated that this is an upright gathering to see good progress reported. He pointed that "most significantly, we are gathered for these two days to evaluate the implementation process and gather some lessons learned to build a strong performance management and reporting culture at all fronts". The Vice-Chancellor and Principal further said, "Our new Strategic Plan provides a paradigm shift in teaching, learning and research approaches, and most importantly usher us into a new era characterised by vast opportunities for students and staff to develop entrepreneurial knowledge and skills and thereby contributing to the local and regional economic development agenda".

Closing the two-day workshop, which ended in a cheerful state, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal told the senior managers that the failure of the University is upon its leadership. "We all play the role of leadership for the success of the University. We expect excellent performance by all leaders, cascading to our subordinates." Dr Nthambeleni indicated that leaders need to understand their roles and to be accountable in whatever they are to deliver. He finally emphasised the issue of effective communication which is crucial to all.



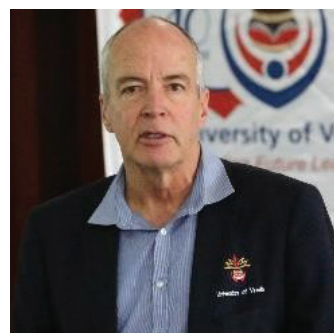
The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Corporate Services, Dr Robert Martin presented the purpose of the workshop which was to check performance plan against Annual Performance Plan and Divisional Operational Plan targets. Dr Martin further stated that we need to reflect on challenges and agree on mitigating action. He further said, in terms of reporting context, Annual Performance Plan targets are linked to the strategic objectives – Our contract with Council and DHET. He also highlighted that our Divisional plans should be linked to the risk register.

Towards the end of the workshop, the DVC Corporate Services, Dr Robert Martin briefly summed up the workshop and updated the delegates on the recent CHE institutional audit.

Amongst other presenters were Dr Sannah Mativandela who presented on 2021 Annual Report Performance overview in relation to the core business of the University, assessing readiness of institutional reporting: statutory reports to DHET and high level preparation for the 2023 planning cycle; Dr Mutshinyalo Ratombo presented on Implementation of the 2022 Annual Divisional Plans (ADoPs) in support of the 2022 APP outputs and 2021-2025 Strategic Plan objectives, Streamlining Annual Divisional Operational Plans and APP reporting templates; Mr Sam Khoza presented on high level update on the development of Performance Information Management System (PIMS) project/ Monitoring & Evaluation reporting tool; DVC Teaching and Learning: Prof Jan Crafford presented a report on the Institutional Enrolment and Graduate targets and their implications to the University; DVC Research and Postgraduate Studies: Prof Nosisi Feza presented the research productivity, Postgraduate outputs and the implications to the University; CFO: Mr Botwe Krazya and Ms Beauty Mutheiwana presented the draft of the 2021 audit outcomes and high level preparation for the 2023 budgeting cycle; Mrs Diana Makwarela and Mr Tinyiko Sibiya presented on the Internal Audit and Risk Management; Mrs Uanda Ndou presented on HR performance and updates on the selection and appointment turnaround time



The University Registrar, Adv Edward Lambani proposed a vote of thanks. He thanked all the delegates and presenters for this interactive workshop. "It is in this kind of meeting where we begin to understand our roles and that we need each other. No one should be working in silos. Teamwork is the way towards achieving our targets." Below are pictures of Executive Management and Senior Managers who presented during the workshop:



Entrepreneurship is the creation of economic value

With the cost of living becoming tougher each day, the School of Law staff members from the University's Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law attended the Entrepreneurial Orientation Workshop to prepare staff members to start thinking Entrepreneurially for the benefit of the University's sustainability. This Entrepreneurship Orientation Workshop was held at the University's Research Conference Centre on Wednesday, 08 June 2022.

Entrepreneurship is the creation or extraction of economic value. With this definition, entrepreneurship is viewed as change, generally entailing risk beyond what is normally encountered in starting a business, which may include other values than simply economic ones.



As one of the Workshop Facilitators, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Corporate Services, Dr Robert Martin highlighted that the aim of this workshop is to make staff members comfortable with Entrepreneurship aspect and to show them other ways of looking at entrepreneurship at a different angle. Dr Martin indicated that, Entrepreneurship is bigger than just opening a business.

Dr Martin continued to say that the University of Venda is an Entrepreneurial University that has been in existence for the past 40 years hence, 'they' are not starting something new but repositioning the University for impact and relevance because 'we' are a University in a specific setting. Dr Martin has amongst other things spoke about 4 strategic thrusts where he mentioned that everything 'we' do, 'we' need to look at it in an entrepreneurial eye. "We need to start looking at ways to utilise the little budgets we have to achieve the University's goals. Let us further look at how can we lessen the University's dependence on government. We also need to start to register as many patents as possible because this will assist the University

to secure and generate income other than government subsidies and from tuition or student fees.

Towards his conclusion, Dr Martin indicated that UNIVEN uses the ARISE Value Chain Model. This model was mooted by the Executive Management and will ensure that the University create value when implementing the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. The model focusses on the following essential components: Admissions- this is to ensure that there is admission of quality students into the system, Retention- retaining students within the system through to successful completion of their qualification, Instruction- providing academic instruction using various teaching and learning approaches and methodologies, Scholarship- developing engaged scholarship and partnership, and Enablement- creating an environment characterised by efficient and effective management processes and systems.

Dr Martin said through the quadruple helix UNIVEN focuses on Community Engagement and Business. He said the aim is to develop an entrepreneurial spirit or culture. "Practice, processes and policies have changed, we need to channel people to start to think differently on creating change."

"Entrepreneurship is you being in your function, doing your job better. Looking at your budget and working within the budget and striving to achieve your target without looking at ways to exhaust those budgets," he concluded.



The second Facilitator, Prof. Vhonani Netshandama spoke about the relevance of academic staff members in relation to entrepreneurship in line with teaching, research and community engagement.

She told attendees that they need to produce novel ideas to fix legal challenges and produce relevant graduates. Amongst others, Prof. Netshandama advised academic staff members to utilise the available resources to teach, learn and engage in research. She further spoke about the aspect of Work Integrated Learning (WIL) where she advised academic staff to get involved because it is also their business to make sure that their students learn the skills while they are still studying towards their qualifications. Prof. Netshandama said the lecturers must collaborate to be innovative. "The greatest of innovation that took place started from their own field." The spirit of entrepreneurship is about rethinking, updating, and refining the Innovations.

Prof. Netshandama concluded by indicating that the Directorate of International Relations and Partnerships has STEP Programme where they need mentors to mentor students who are interested in venturing into businesses. These mentors also teach students on how to sustain those businesses. She also spoke about DHE Entrepreneurship programme and Social Enterprise Programme facilitated by the Directorate of Community Engagement.



In his opening remarks, the Acting Director School of Law, Prof. Lonias Ndlovu highlighted that the intention of this event is to encourage staff members to develop an entrepreneurial culture. "This is something to do with the development of the enterprise and to develop the economy." Prof. Lonias Ndlovu highlighted that this workshop will open staff member's eyes to always think in an entrepreneurial way.



In his closing remarks, Prof. Ademola Jegede indicated that this workshop is very important for all staff members because it assists to enlighten staff members on how to think in an entrepreneurial way and encourage them to contribute positively to the operations and sustainability of the University.



The programme was directed by Ms. Zama Mopai from the School of Law.



The workshop was organised by Ms Crystal Mokoena (Pictured) as the Entrepreneurial Committee Member of the School of Law.



A group photo of workshop attendees

The University of Venda welcomes new interns from the Presidential Youth Employment Stimulus package



We are proud to welcome the first cohort of the 135 allocated interns of the Presidential Youth Employment stimulus package. The interns were officially welcomed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Corporate Services, Dr Robert Martin.

The event took place on Wednesday, 01 June 2022 at the University's Research Conference Centre.



When welcoming new interns, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Corporate Services, Dr Robert Martin, briefly shared the 2021-2025 Strategic Thrusts. He urged the interns to familiarise themselves with the Strategic Plan during their six months stay at UNIVEN. In his opening address, Dr Martin emphasised that the interns should always treat people with dignity and respect.



Human Resources Director, Mrs Uanda Ndou explained that an internship programme is a great opportunity for unemployed graduates because it exposes them to different fields in their career choices. She concluded by advising interns to take this internship programme serious.



Mr Esrom Phungo, Head of Organisational Development and Training addressed the interns on how to conduct themselves during this period. He told them that their professional life has just started and that the plan is to make sure that they are given a feel of what happens in the workplace. Mr Phungo emphasised that the driving force for success in life is passion.



Mr Aluwani Matamba who is a former UNIVEN Intern, now working under the Department of Finance as a permanent employee told interns that their hard work should start on that day which is their first day at work. He further encouraged interns to respect time and each other. Mr Matamba concluded his talk by urging interns to come up with new ideas and to further their studies as this will assist them in future.



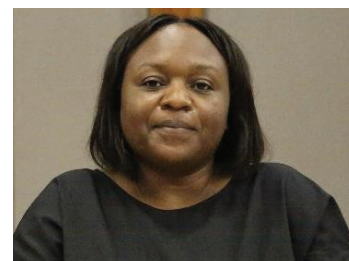
Mr Mpho Magwalivha representing mentors, advised interns that they should not copy the lifestyles of permanent employees. He said they must be dedicated and willing to do what they have been assigned to do. He advised them to be available when they are needed.



Advocate Rudzani Makhema, Head Employee Relations, presented on workplace conduct where he advised interns to have the heart of willingness. "Be willing to learn". Adv Makhema continued to tell the interns that this six (06) month period may be their defining moment in their lives. He told interns that it is important that when they are participating in this internship programme, they should make sure that their conduct is proper. "Do not feel like you are at home," said Adv Makhema. He concluded by advising interns to familiarise themselves with the University's code of conduct. "It is important that in whatever you do, always maintain a positive relationship with your mentor and colleagues."



Mr Takalani Tshidada taking the interns through HR processes



Ms Phophi Masiagwala gave a vote of thanks and encouraged interns to take themselves seriously



UNIVEN HR staff members.

Vuwani Science Resource Centre receives a new BMW X3 M40i car from BMW South Africa



The new BMW car to be used for exhibition at Vuwani Science Resource Centre

The University of Venda's Vuwani Science Resource Centre, under the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture recently received a brand-new car (BMW X3 M40i) from BMW South Africa for exhibition.

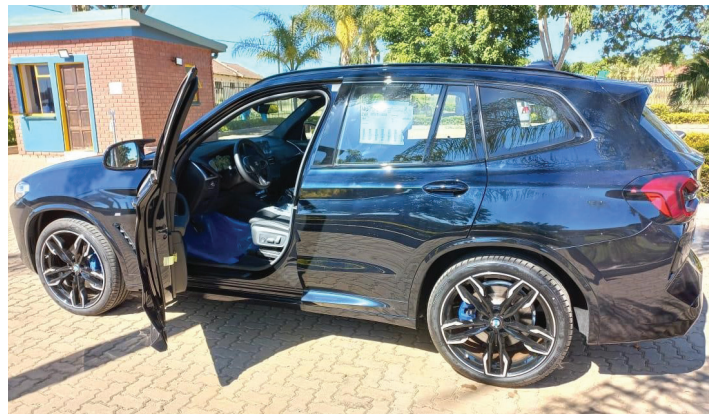
Vuwani Science Resource Centre always host science awareness campaigns in different fields including science shows, science exhibitions, science talks to illustrate, inform and educate learners hailing from primary and secondary schools within the surrounding communities. The main exhibition hall at the science centre has several exhibition items which demonstrate different science ideas from energy, power, life sciences, chemistry and environmental sciences.

One of the main exhibits is the BMW car which is used to demonstrate the automotive engineering of BMW cars. There are several education-related topics which learners are taught through the BMW exhibit. Vuwani Science Resource Centre has formulated a memorandum of understanding with BMW South Africa to support the science awareness through the car exhibit in the

cycle of two years. Currently the cycle of the previous two years has elapsed, and the centre has received a new black BMW car and the old white car has been taken back to the BMW car dealership.

The science awareness strategy needs the exhibitions to be as interactive as possible for the learners and public participants to understand how cars function. The learners are expected to acquire a motivation to pursue engineering as they progress in their studies. These learners would then be able to reflect on questions such as their experience about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) as they would have gone through different exhibitions inside the exhibition hall. The main purpose of the exhibition hall at Vuwani Science Resource Centre is to introduce STEM education to learners and to the public at large.

Even though the car cannot be used for driving around, it is a major centre of attraction at Vuwani Science Resource Centre for learners and the public. The other aim of the exhibition hall is to develop and use



the pre- and post-surveys to obtain the level of understanding of STEM before and after learners visit the exhibition hall. The pre-surveys are meant for the learners to give information on how they understand the STEM and if they are familiar with STEM education so that they could pursue STEM careers at the institutions of higher learning.

The Executive Dean of Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture, Prof Ntebogeng Mokgalaka-Fleischmann has on

behalf of the University expressed that she appreciate the gesture of BMW South Africa by always making sure that communities are empowered through the University of Venda's Vuwani Science Resource Centre. She further thanked BMW for its generosity.

The old BMW X3 exhibition was taken back when the centre received the new car. This is the third donation cycle by BMW South Africa by means of which a car is replaced every two years.



The old BMW car that has been collected from Vuwani Science Resource Centre and taken back to BMW South Africa

The Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture organises an Induction and Orientation workshop for first entering 2022 Masters and Doctoral students



From 20-22 June 2022, the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture held an Induction and Orientation workshop for new 2022 Masters and Doctoral students. The workshop took place at the Research Conference Centre. The main objective of this induction and orientation workshop was to give students the best possible start and integration in the University. The workshop was further intended to create awareness among masters and doctoral students about the faculty procedures on postgraduate studies, introduce the students to support services and who they can contact for assistance when they need help with specific issues and which services are available to postgraduate students. In addition the students were introduced to available opportunities within the University for them to make their studies easy and make them feel at home.



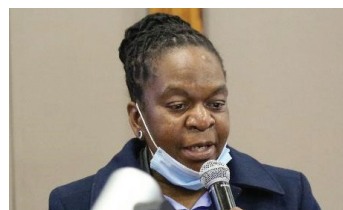
The DVC Research and Postgraduate Studies Prof Nosisi Feza told attendees to conduct research which impact society. She mentioned that they have the potential of becoming future researchers because they are still young, and they know what kind of challenges need to be tackled within communities where they come from. The points she highlighted on research that impacts society included the following: "One of the challenges we have is that we live in a country that has shortage of food whereas this region produces a lot of food. Think about ways to preserve and increase productivity of food in this area because your studies should have societal impact. Connectivity and water scarcity are some of the challenges that our area and the whole country are facing. Access to the land where we can plough these crops is another

challenge that should be addressed. In addition, she advised postgraduate students to do their part and the research supervisors will make sure that they finish their studies on time and they will also make sure that they get exposure and funding for their research projects.



The Executive Dean of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture, Prof Ntebogeng Mokgalaka-Fleischmann said this orientation programme is aimed at providing information about the postgraduate procedures in the faculty. She encouraged all postgraduate students to do their level best in making sure that they complete their research projects on time. She concluded by telling researchers to participate in research seminars.

Several support structures informed the postgraduate students on various assistance and services available for them. Senior Professor Ekosse and colleagues from his Directorate shared all the services they can assist with; Dr Ratshitanga spoke about services and support provided by the ICT Department, Ms Nare Ramaboea talked about operation of Library Services, Dr Segun Obadire presented about services and support offered by the University's International Relations and Partnership Directorate, Messrs Mfaniseni Mnguni and Andisani Mathelemusa spoke about services and the support offered by Student Affairs Department, Mr Mpfariseni Ligudu presented about the Role of Academic Administration Department, and Campus Health Clinic was represented by Mrs Maggie Hlungwane. Below are some of the presenters who presented about the support they give to postgraduate students.



The Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture continued...

Over the 3-day workshop, the postgraduate students were also inducted on the importance of ethics in research and the need for ethical clearance before starting with a research project. The participants were informed about the important role that an MoU between the supervisor and student plays in the mutual relationship and making sure that students complete their studies on time. The students also had the opportunity to listen to a postdoctoral fellow who started as an undergraduate student. The postgraduate fellow shared her experience and journey as a UNIVEN postgraduate student and how she approached her studies.

During the workshop the timeframes and deadlines of masters and doctoral studies were also discussed, and the students left the workshop with a better understanding of what is expected from them and how they can make their postgraduate student journey a success.



Group photo of attendees inside the Research Conference Centre

Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture organises a Faculty Research Celebration

On 27 and 28 June 2022, the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture held the Faculty Research celebration at the University's Research Conference Centre. The purpose of the event was to showcase and celebrate research diversity within the faculty. The event had several poster and oral presentations from staff, undergraduate and postgraduate students on several research themes which included:

- (1) Climate change, energy, agriculture and food security;
- (2) One Health research;
- (3) Natural products and Material Sciences;
- (4) Spatial planning, land management or rural development;
- (5) Biodiversity, Conservation, or ecosystem services;
- (6) Mathematical modelling or data sciences [including engineering innovations]; and
- (7) Environmental monitoring or waste management.



The Executive Dean of the Faculty, Prof Ntebogeng Mokgalaka-Fleischmann, welcomed everybody and said the purpose of this Faculty Research celebration was to elevate awareness and appreciate the University's research endeavours across departments, niche, and focus areas; to foster the exchange of knowledge information and the cross fertilisation of ideas and to encourage the development of multidisciplinary efforts. She gave a brief background of the faculty where she mentioned that researchers and the research that is taking place in the faculty are of highest quality and on equal footing to researchers from other Universities.



In the Official Opening, Senior Prof George's Ekosse described Prof Mokgalaka as someone who has built her career from scratch to where she is now. He challenged female attendees and researchers to use Prof Mokgalaka as an example and a mentor. Senior Prof Ekosse mentioned that the researchers in this Faculty also need to look at the research output for the University. When talking about technology transfer, he said most university patents are coming from the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture. He encouraged postgraduate students to register their profiles on NRF platforms because these platforms will give them exposure and recognition. He concluded by saying: "We need to see beyond NRF, we need to make sure that our research makes impact in our country and internationally. Let your research work speak for you".



As the Keynote Speaker on the first day, Prof Akebe Luther King Abia from the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, presented on the title, "Antibiotic resistance and one health: implication for sustainable development in South Africa". He presented about several studies that he conducted which were aimed at finding solutions to antibiotic resistance in Sub-Saharan African countries. He said there is a lot of infections that could take place if we expose ourselves to polluted water. We are drinking water that is mostly abstracted from rivers and dams and these rivers are polluted. Prof Akebe said resistance in bacteria threaten long-term food security especially in food animal production. The country and the world need the solutions to this challenge. Most conventional sewage treatment options do not remove antibiotics from the water, and this is a serious challenge.

"The purpose of this Faculty Research celebration was to elevate awareness and appreciate the University's research endeavours across departments, niche, and focus areas; to foster the exchange of knowledge information and the cross fertilisation of ideas and to encourage the development of multidisciplinary efforts."



Attendees of the Faculty Research Day listening to the speaker



Poster sessions during the lunch and tea breaks provided opportunity for interaction between the researchers and interested individuals. Several industrial companies, like Labex, Inquaba, United Scientific, Labotec and Separations were also present to showcase laboratory equipment and talk to the students and staff concerning new techniques. The two-day event was very successful and it gave young future scientists an opportunity to learn from each other and present their own results to their peers.



UNIVEN bids farewell to Prof Ntebogeng Mokgalaka-Fleischmann

In the evening of Thursday, 23 June 2022, Senior Management Committee led by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni held an event to bid farewell to the Executive Dean: Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture, Prof Ntebogeng Mokgalaka-Fleischmann. The Farewell Function took place at Euphoria Golf and Lifestyle Estate, Mookgophong and was attended by the University Executive and Senior Management.



In her response message, Prof Ntebogeng Mokgalaka-Fleischmann said she is thankful and humbled for what UNIVEN has done for her, trusting her, and be given the opportunity to lead a newly established Faculty of Engineering, Science and Agriculture. She expressed that, since she joined UNIVEN, she has learned a lot of skills that will be used even where she is going. Prof Mokgalaka said she appreciated the unwavering support that she was given while at UNIVEN. "I have an opportunity to give back to my community in Mamelodi and I consider this as a lifetime opportunity," she said. Prof Mokgalaka is joining the University of Pretoria, Mamelodi campus.



In his farewell message, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni described Prof Mokgalaka-Fleischmann as someone who understood her role because it was not difficult for her to adjust and fit in at UNIVEN and implement the University's Strategic Plan 2021-2025 in the new Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture. Dr Nthambeleni said he was impressed by Prof Mokgalaka-Fleischmann's attitude towards challenges. He said great leaders always make differences. "Great leaders face challenges and find solutions like you always do. Excel in your new assignment, use the same energy and attitude wherever you go," concluded Dr Nthambeleni.

"Great leaders face challenges and find solutions like you always do. Excel in your new assignment, use the same energy and attitude wherever you go."



In her opening and welcome message, DVC Research and Postgraduate Studies, Prof

Nosisi Feza mentioned that as the University is bidding farewell to Prof Mokgalaka-Fleischmann, she hopes that those who have worked with her have learned something from her. Prof Feza told Prof Mokgalaka-Fleischmann to continue to be visionary and be the best version of herself even where she is going.



DVC Teaching and Learning, Prof Jan Crafford gave a vote of thanks. He told Prof Mokgalaka-Fleischmann that her contribution to UNIVEN cannot be measured. "You have established the faculty and put it where it is supposed to be. You have set an incredible example, go well," He concluded.

We would like to hear from you!

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