



CONFERENCE SPECIAL ISSUE



SASCE NEWS



WIL-AFRICA
WORK INTEGRATED LEARNING

4TH WIL-AFRICA CONFERENCE — A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

SASCE Hosted its 4th WIL AFRICA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE in East London ICC on the 27 to 30 September 2022.

Under the theme, CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION & WORK INTEGRATED LEARNING IMPLEMENTATION DURING & POST COVID, the WIL Africa Conference explored areas such as : Current practice in WIL: Challenges and opportunities, WIL innovations: Insights learned from the Covid 19 pandemic: , Developing skills for employability: WIL, Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Articulation, Partnerships for implementing and sustaining WIL and Internship programmes.

More than 200 delegates attended hybrid conference from Universities of Technology, TVET Colleges, SETAs and industry. We were especially honored by the presence of representatives from the Department of Higher Education, Science, & Innovation and the Eastern Cape Premier's

Office, SETA CEOs, South African Council of Graduates, Principals and Deputy Principals of TVET Colleges as well as Deputy Vice Chancellors Teaching and Learning from CPUT, MUT, WSU and Botho University in Botswana.

On the international front, guests and speakers were Dr Sampan Silapanad, Co-Chair of World Association for Co-Operative Education (WACE) and Vice-President for Western Digital Corporation, Ms Judie Kay WACE Vice Chair Programs & Partnerships and Chair of the WACE National Associations Committee as well as Ms Zoe de Reus, Director Industry Engagements, Practera.

In his speech on behalf of Dr Blade Nzimande, Minister for Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Mr N Ngandela said the Ministry is happy that SASCE has convened the conference as it is critical in advancing its post-school work as



WIL AFRICA conference delegates

encapsulated in the Department's 5-year strategic outcomes, one of which is facilitating partnerships amongst all the social partners in order to build a strong post school education system.

A prominent feature of the conference were various Commissions that engaged on pertinent issues namely, student employability, articulation between TVET and higher education sector, the impact of reducing/eliminating WIL from qualifications as well as experiences of students during Work-Integrated Learning placement.

ACADEMICS ALIGN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FUTURE-FIT GRADUATES TO A TOTAL TRANSFORMATION OF THE CURRICULUM



CPUT DVC Teaching and Learning Prof R. Balkaran addressing the WIL Africa Conference delegates

The Future of Work is a topical issue in higher education as institutions ponder on the development of a future-fit graduate.

A plenary on Curriculum and the Future of Work lead by Prof R Balkaran, DVC Teaching and Learning at CPUT with responding panelists, Dr M Makua, Acting DVC Teaching and Learning, MUT, Prof Mashudu Davhana-Maselesele WSU DVC Academic Affairs and Research and Dr IR Mathews from Botho University, Botswana pondered on how universities can develop a curriculum

that is fit for the future of work and the local context.

The engagements in this panel highlighted the need for innovation and forward-thinking by universities, building and strengthening of relationships between universities and industry as well as review of what is taught.

Further, a call was made for strengthened relations between universities and TVET colleges in order to remove the silos in education.



SASCE RECOGNIZES ITS INDUSTRY PARTNERS FOR EXCELLENCE IN WORK-INTEGRATED LEARNING

The highlight of the WIL Africa Conference was the awards ceremony at which SASCE awarded industry for consistent excellence in Work-Integrated Learning (WIL).

The criteria for the awards were based primarily on consistent excellence in Work-Integrated Learning across all universities of Technology and TVETs. The nominations came from SASCE member institutions in appreciation of the partnerships that each institution enjoyed with the nominated partners.

Organizations that were awarded for the consistent excellence in Work-Integrated Learning awards were the Eastern Cape Office of the Premier, Dinky Manufacturing, Battle of Municipalities Talent Search, Ithala Bank, Arcello Mittal SA, Centlec, Engine South Coast Mall, Eskom Lethabo Power Station, Hulamin, South African National Biodiversity

Institute, Umgeni Water, Western Cape Department of Health, Dinky Manufacturing, National Health Laboratory Services, Sheppy Technologies, Rhodes Food Group and 12 Apostles Hotel and Spa.

An Overall award was given to Transnet for being nominated by more than three Universities of Technology. Over a period of more than a decade, Transnet has recruited and hosted an annual intake of over 120 students from all UoTs. Many of these students have secured permanent employment with the State-Owned Enterprise (SOE).

Dr Kgware, who was Program Director for the evening said that the awards were not meant to show one another up, but to encourage those that were awarded to do better and those that were not awarded to work hard so that they are awarded next time.



SASCE President, Mrs N Nxesi, presenting an award to the Eastern Cape Office of the Premier during the awards gala

Above all the evening was for relaxing and, as the Mrs Nxesi, the SASCE president put it "turning our Networks to Net worth

Highlights of the Conference



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