

Dear Colleagues,

**RE: NOMINATIONS REQUIRED FOR FUNDED PARTICIPATION IN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) MEETING AROUND BLENDED LEARNING AT SA UNIVERSITIES - BEFORE 1 NOVEMBER 2018**

The DHET have made some funds available under the [Rural Campuses Connection Project \(RCCPII\)](#) for capacity development initiatives related broadly to driving internet usage at various universities in South Africa. The [Association for South African University Directors of Information Technology](#) (ASAUDIT) strives to promote professional skills and conduct in university ICT management and to serve as unitary voice for the South African Higher Education IT profession.

RCCPII and ASAUDIT is collaborating to bring capacity development and collaboration opportunities **focussed on eLearning or Blended Learning** to universities' **academic, professional, administrative, and support staff**.

**About the ASAUDIT Blended Learning SIG**

Over the past few years most universities in SA have established or participated in various forums to discuss and develop institutional eLearning offerings, approaches, strategies, and policies. These discussions and developments often take place inside the IT departments, the Centres for Teaching and Learning or within Faculties. Through conversations within ASAUDIT, IT directors and practitioners recognised the need to find a platform where discussions can span institutions, as well as academic departments, teaching and learning centres, and the IT support divisions to optimise skill sharing and reduce duplication of efforts.

The ASAUDIT Blended Learning SIG was established in 2017 and two in-person meetings were held since then. The first meeting took place at Stellenbosch University in November 2017 and the second at Nelson Mandela University in Port Elizabeth on 18 June 2018.

**The Future of the SIG**

The RCCPII grant is running until 31 March 2019 and we're hoping to build a good foundation by providing opportunities to meet in person via funding available through RCCPII. The SIG is not dependent on RCCPII though and will continue to operate beyond the scope of the grant.

**An Opportunity for Your Staff**

On 19 and 20 November 2018 RCCPII in collaboration with ASAUDIT will be hosting a two-day event in Johannesburg at the Birchwood Hotel and Conference Centre.

**Under the RCCPII grant we would like to invite you to nominate** academic or support staff members to participate in the event.

**RCCPII will fund the up to three (3) nominees as follows:**

- Full participation in the event including hiring of conference venues, refreshment breaks and lunch daily;
- Accommodation on a dinner, bed & breakfast basis at the conference venue hotel on 19 November 2018;
- A free shuttle is available from the OR Tambo International Airport to the conference venue and hotel.

**RCCPII cannot sponsor the following and trust the university will be able to support nominees with:**

- Travel to the conference (including airfares and ground travel)

**Additional nominees**

Institutions can nominate additional staff members who can attend the event at no cost should space permit. Additional nominees will have to fund own travel and accommodation costs. Limited space is available and additional nominees will be accommodated depending on availability. Please contact the organisers should you wish to nominate more than three participants.

**Qualifying Institutions**

The opportunity is open to any public university in South Africa as listed at <https://www.usaf.ac.za/public-universities-in-south-africa/>.

**How to Make Nominations**

Nominees should be asked to complete the registration form **before 17:00 SAST on 1 November 2018** - <https://tenet-rccpii.github.io/BlendedLearningSIG-JHB-2018/>. Nominees should include proof of their nomination and proof of support by their institution to fund travel to the event.

Please contact Anelda van der Walt ([anelda@talarify.co.za](mailto:anelda@talarify.co.za)) or Adelle Lotter ([adelle.lotter@nwu.ac.za](mailto:adelle.lotter@nwu.ac.za)) should you have any questions about the opportunity.

We look forward to be working with you to grow the conversation and collaboration around blended learning and e-learning at our universities.

Sincerely,

**Anelda van der Walt**  
*Co-Project Manager*  
*RCCPII Capacity Development*

**Adelle Lotter**  
*Convener*  
*ASAUDIT Blended Learning SIG*