



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH: THE MONTH OF CHANGE AND TRANSITION

Nearly a year ago, the future of this country was upended when the first case of COVID-19 was reported in South Africa on March 5th. In the time since, we've been under several levels of lockdown, witnessed the collapse of certain industries and been forced to reimagine the ways in which we live our lives. March is often seen as the month that signals change and transition. As South Africans gear up for a change in season, THENSA will be host to two important events that will guide us into the quarter of the year. The first is the International Inception Meeting on Tourism Research and Training: A Post COVID-19 Initiative, which will be hosted in partnership with Technological Higher Education Association (THEA) on March 15th via Zoom. This event will look at the tourism landscape, with the hope of finding solutions to how revive and rejuvenate sector following the COVID-19 pandemic. The second is the [official launch](#) of the 'Higher Education Reform Experts South Africa' (HERESA) project, which will take place on March 16th at 15:00 in partnership with OBREAL-Global Observatory (Spain). Implemented as a pilot project over a three-year period, HERESA is based on the HERE model in the EU neighbourhood region which has proven to be influential in the Higher Education sector for the last decade. Implemented as a pilot project over three years in the member universities of THENSA, it aims to strengthen and revitalise teaching and learning strategies in the areas of Entrepreneurship, Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) and teaching for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). If you'd like to attend the HERESA launch, check out the registration link and times below. We wish you a safe, productive and fruitful March!



UPDATES FROM OUR SIDE

- Kindly note that the HERESA launch will take place at 14h00 CET/15H00 on Zoom. You can register for the event using [this link](#). It is advisable that you register ahead of the start of the event to avoid any delays.
- Keep an eye out for news about our Graduate Employability App on our [website](#).
- Remember to consult with your respective institutions about the link for IBM Digital-Nation Africa, an online learning and innovation platform that provides digital literacy to the continent's youth.

UPDATES FROM OUR MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

- In partnership with the Ithala Development Finance Corporation (IDFC), the Durban University of Technology (DUT) [launched](#) their free SMME and Co-operative Business Training Programme to support local economic recovery in KwaZulu-Natal. The online event took place on March 4th.
- Dr Grace Kanakana-Katumba was [appointed](#) as the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment (FEBE), making her the first black woman to be appointed as a dean in the faculty. As an industrial engineer and scientist who cut her teeth at the global automotive company Johnson Controls, Dr Kanakana-Katumba is passionate about instilling an entrepreneurial spirit in her students.
- The renowned local sneaker brand Bathu has [recruited](#) Walter Sisulu University graduate, Retsang "Rezz" Morake, as a part of their team. Morake, who graduated with a Fine Arts diploma, joined the brand after responding to an ad on their Facebook page.
- The Central University of Technology has [established](#) a Centre for Communication Studies which will advance research in the Faculty of Informatics and Design. Created by Associate Professor Nic Theo, in tandem with Associate Professors Ephias Ruhode and Izak van Zyl, the Centre aims to bridge communication theory and practice in the fields of media, design, digital engagement and the arts.

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