



THENSA

Technological Higher Education Network South Africa

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE (PART TWO): IN PRAISE OF TECHNOLOGY FOCUSSED INSTITUTIONS

If one were to ask the South African media to name some of the best institutions of higher learning in South Africa, one would most likely hear a handful of traditional universities whose legacy has long been associated with excellence. There is no doubt that these institutions deserve the high regard with which they are held. However, the accomplishments and feats of Universities of Technology or Technology Focussed Institutions have often gone unnoticed, if not ignored. While this can partly be attributed to the position these institutions have occupied in the country historically, their achievements and accolades, at both a local and global level, are not provided the attention that they deserve. In terms of our marketing and media outreach, one of THENSA's primary objectives is to dispel certain myths and assumptions about the contributions of Technology Focussed Institutions in the landscape of South African higher education. This monthly newsletter offers us an opportunity to champion the brilliant work at these institutions, while illustrating that they are just as capable of offering an optimal learning experience as traditional universities. In some cases, they are even better suited to giving students the type of education and campus life that will equip them to become productive, economically independent citizens. For Part Two of this newsletter, we will be focusing on updates and achievements at our member institutions. We hope that you enjoy this edition of THENSA's newsletter and kindly remember to email our Media Liaison Officer, Khanya Mtshali (info5@thensa.co.za), with news from your institutions.



**SPECIAL REMINDER THAT OUR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HAS BEEN
POSTPONED TO 16 - 18TH MARCH 2022**

UPDATES FROM OUR MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

- Mangosuthu University of Technology's (MUT) faculties of Engineering, Management Sciences and Natural Sciences **have agreed** to collaborate with eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality to solve South Africa's current energy crisis. In partnership with MUT, eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality will contribute to the green economy of the country by prioritising the generation of renewable energy in line with the Durban Climate Change Strategy, as well as the Climate Action Plan.
- Durban University of Technology (DUT) **recently celebrated** the inclusion of Lyndon Naidoo, a PhD student from the Faculty of Applied Sciences, in the Mail & Guardian's Top 200 Young South Africans list. Naidoo, who is only 26 years old, topped the Science and Technology list due to his academic achievements, as well as his community work in offering to help to Grade 12s complete their Physical Science practicals.
- Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) **signed** a bilateral agreement to establish a UNESCO chair in African Integration and Innovation. According to Professor Mario Scerri, the founding chair holder, the agreement will enhance research capacity building around the political economy of innovation studies and associated policy environments in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region and throughout the continent.
- Central University of Technology (CUT) **held** the official launch for Microsoft's Artificial Intelligence programme (AI), which was introduced into the university in July 2020. The 12-month programme will first be used by the Innovation Services at CUT and the Free State Provincial Government, employing a blended learning model that includes the integration of self-study, online learning, classroom instructor-led training and a flipped classroom, as well as mentorship and coaching by industry experts, business skills, Microsoft Azure AI Associate Certification, guest lectures, career days, examination and certification.
- Professor Chris Nhlapo, Vice-Chancellor of Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), has been **appointed** to a Ministerial Task Team that will review policy on student funding for the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). After a presentation to Cabinet this year, it was agreed that an immediate policy review would be undertaken to provide short and long-term policy funding solutions for students in the country. The Department of Higher Education and Training, along with the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, will implement the technical work to support the review.

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