

A TRIBUTE TO PROF ROY HOWARD DU PRÉ

The South African Technology Network (THENSA) has learned with profound sorrow of the passing of Prof Roy du Pré, the visionary founder of our vibrant organisation. His departure leaves a void that is not just painful, but also a testament to the immense impact he had on our lives. Prof du Pré was not just a leader, but a beacon of compassion and dedication, who selflessly contributed to technology-focused higher education in South Africa. His life was a testament to greatness!

Prof Roy du Pré was a true servant of the higher education sector in South Africa. He served the university sector as a professor, dean, university planner, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Acting Vice-Chancellor at the Vaal University of Technology (VUT) and Vice-Chancellor and Principal at Durban University of Technology (DUT). He has also served the higher education sector in South Africa in a variety of ways, amongst them as Executive Director of the Committee of Technikon Principals, Chairperson of the South African Technology Network (SATN), now known as THENSA, Member of the board of the South African Qualifications Authority; President of the Southern African Society for Cooperative Education; and member of the Board of Governors of the World Association for Cooperative Education (WACE).

Prof du Pré's influence was not limited to his positions. He was the driving force behind establishing universities of technology in South Africa. His belief in the pivotal role of technology-focused higher education in South Africa was unwavering, and he played a crucial part in setting up SATN itself in 2006, serving as its inaugural Chairperson. His impact was not confined to South Africa as he wrote two books elucidating the role of Universities of Technology in South Africa and the benefits of technology and career-oriented higher education. This passion was extended to reach Botswana, Mauritius, Zimbabwe, and Namibia. He was honoured in 2015 with the "Africa Leadership Award" in the "Social Innovation" area, acknowledging his role in changing lives through technology-focused education - THENSA's vision today!

Furthermore, he taught us that authentic leadership is about service to others and leading by example. We celebrate his legacy by continuing to serve with the same passion, dedication, and commitment he showed daily. We pledge to honour his commitment to enhancing technology education and innovation in Southern Africa!

The Board of Directors and staff of THENSA are deeply grateful to Prof Roy du Pré for a life well-lived and dedicated to advancing technology-focused higher education. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends, sharing in their loss and celebrating the legacy he leaves behind!

Prof Henk de Jager: Interim CEO of THENSA
(26 May 2024)