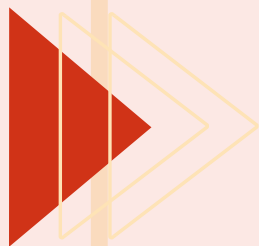


The National Association of Distance Education and  
Open Learning in South Africa

hosted by the

University of Pretoria - Groenkloof Campus

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## S U C C E S S

2023 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

25-26 MAY



# NADEOSA

National Association of Distance Education  
and Open Learning in South Africa



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## President's Welcome Message

Dr Ruth Aluko

A warm welcome to everyone to this year's National Association of Distance and Open Learning Association in South Africa (NADEOSA) Conference.

It is our first face-to-face conference since 2019. As we pay homage to many loved ones that we have lost among whom was our dear friend, Jenny Louw, we know it is a blessing to meet with everyone in this manner. So, I encourage you to maximize the opportunity.

The theme of this year's conference "Student Success" is rightly so because this is the hallmark of our endeavours as education providers. Literature avers low student success and throughput rates have been the bane of our higher education system, this is worse for the distance education mode. Although we know this has often been taken out of context for distance education, the phenomenon still remains a source of concern for us as practitioners in the field. Institutions are doing their best to put systems and structures in place to stem the tide.

As we interrogate the sub-themes of First Year Experience; Learner Analytics; Ethics of using student data; Academic student advising; Student support services; and Graduate employability together, I would like to leave us with some food for thought. Now that the recent COVID-19 pandemic has further blurred the boundaries between contact and distance education, and has forced both modes to go distance (in one way or another), how would all HEIs be handling the matter of student success? As evident, there are more things that bring us together than divide us, and providers, irrespective of the mode of delivery would have to start thinking differently on many important aspects that culminate in student success. The latter is only the eventual product!

I believe many valuable tips will emanate from our eminent keynote speakers, panellists and presenters at this conference. You can expect to rub minds with the cream of the best in the field of HEIs!

Once again, I welcome you to the 2023 NADEOSA conference and to the beautiful Groenkloof Campus of the University of Pretoria. As the weather warms up in the afternoons, I encourage you to take a walk and appreciate its beauty during your well-deserved breaks!



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## Keynote Speaker

Dr Alan Amory



Dr Alan Amory is interested in learning technologies and is the project lead for the Siyaphumelela initiative. He joined the Centre for Academic Technologies, University of Johannesburg, after working in the Faculty of Education. Before that, he spent a brief period as acting Chief Director for Education Support Services at the Gauteng Department of Education. Previously Alan worked in the Biology Department of the University of Natal for 15 years before he was employed as the Director of

the Centre for Information Technology in Higher Education at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, where he and a small team supported the academic community in the use of educational technology. Alan has received numerous prestigious awards and is the author of many peer-reviewed articles, peer-reviewed conference proceedings and conference presentations.



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## Keynote Speaker

Professor Chika Sehooole



Professor Chika Sehooole is a professor of higher education and the Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Pretoria. He obtained his PhD at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, in December 2002. In 2003/4 he was a visiting Rockefeller post-doctoral fellow at the Centre for African Studies at the University of Illinois in Urbana Champaign. In 2005/06 he was a New Century Fulbright Fellow again, at the same university. His research interests are in the areas of higher education policy,

internationalization of higher education, higher education in Africa and globalization of higher education. He has served in several international research projects focusing on higher education and providing expertise from the South African and African perspectives. In 2013-2017 he served as the Chairperson of the Board of the African Network for Internationalisation of Education (ANIE) and he is currently serving on its board. He currently serves as the chairperson of the Education Deans' Forum of South Africa. He has three edited scholarly books on higher education and published more than 40 articles in journal articles, book chapters and popular media.

## Keynote Speaker

Dr Britta Zawada



Dr Britta Zawada completed her first degrees at Stellenbosch University with a focus on general linguistics and languages. Her masters and doctoral studies in Cognitive Linguistics were completed at the University of South Africa (UNISA). She also holds a postgraduate qualification in teaching (from the University of Pretoria) and in Distance Education and e-Learning (from the University of Maryland in the USA). Britta first started at Stellenbosch and later at UNISA progressing from a junior lecturer to eventually being the Chair of the

Department of Linguistics at UNISA. She also has experience in scientific editing, translation and interpreting, from fields such as geology, theology and linguistics. She ended her 33 years at UNISA with a decade of various leadership roles in the College of Human Sciences, mostly with a focus on teaching and learning and quality assurance. She was awarded the UNISA Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. Britta has presented nationally and internationally at conferences, has published peer-reviewed articles and a book, as well as supervised both masters and doctoral students in Cognitive Linguistics. She has been the Director for Institutional Audits at the Council on Higher Education in South Africa since February 2020, and now oversees the implementation of the new Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) at the CHE in a full-time capacity.



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## Panel Discussants

Mr Lekau Rachidi

Mr Lekau Rachidi is currently a Manager at Unisa's Student Retention Unit. He has held numerous positions in his 20-year career in Higher Education, starting at Tshwane University of Technology (Technikon Pretoria, Polokwane Campus as a Part-time Lecturer), then at Technikon Southern Africa (TSA, North-Eastern Region) prior to the merger and later relocated to Unisa Pretoria in 2007 to take a role as an institutional Coordinator for Discussion Classes. He served in other coordination roles (which are Tutorial Services and Digital Access Centers) before a twelve-month stint as action Deputy Director: Tuition Support responsible for Units such as Tutorial Services, Digital Access Centres, Recognition of Prior Learning, and Experiential Learning.





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## Dr Tebogo Tsebe

Dr. Tsebe is the Manager of the Student Support Unit at Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU). He holds a PhD in Educational Psychology and a Master of Philosophy in Practical Theology and he combines these disciplines to gain a comprehensive understanding of the human psyche and spirit. He is also a registered Psychologist and operates a Private Practice alongside his work role. Dr. Tsebe is the Manager of the Student Support Unit at Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU). Dr. Tsebe has a wealth of experience in academic support and development within Higher Education, with a particular emphasis on fostering student success. His expertise has been recognized through various achievements and accolades, including his appointment to the Academic Board and Student Support Service (SSS) Committee of the Tshwane North TVET College since 2021. One notable milestone in Dr. Tsebe's career was his role as Acting Director for the Centre for University Teaching and Learning (CUTL) at SMU in 2020. During this time, he played a crucial part in guiding the university through the challenges posed by the transition from remote teaching and learning necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. At SMU, Dr. Tsebe also serves as an institutional leader for the Siyaphumelela "We Succeed" project. This initiative is a collaborative network of universities dedicated to implementing data-informed strategies for promoting student success in Higher Education Institutions. Currently, Dr. Tsebe leads this institutional project, further underscoring his commitment to advancing student outcomes.





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## Prof Nthabiseng Audrey Ogude

Nthabiseng Audrey Ogude is a Science Educator and currently Professor and Dean at the Mamelodi Campus of the University of Pretoria. She obtained a PhD degree in Chemistry Education at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. She has 29 years' experience in tertiary education, thirteen of which were in strategic leadership positions. Professor Ogude is passionate about student access and success and using data-informed approaches for holistic development of students especially among disadvantaged and female students. She serves in the Advisory Board of Siyaphumelela (We succeed) and also as one of six Siyaphumelela Student Success Coaches who assist 13 universities in South Africa to institutionalise student success initiatives using an evidence led approach.



In her role as Dean, her responsibility is to oversee the Anchor Strategy of the University, the Mamelodi Collaborative. At the core of the anchor strategy is a responsibility for broadening educational pathways to tertiary attainment for learners in the Mamelodi Township Educational ecosystem and beyond through the University of Pretoria , Pre-University Academy. Professor Ogude serves on several boards and councils and is currently the Vice-President of the Pan African University Council, a continental effort under the African Union which brings together research capacity from existing institutions to address common problems such as climate change.





# Conference Programme

## Day 1: Thursday 25 May 2023

Time	Session		
08.00 – 09.00	Registration and Tea/Coffee		
Session 1: Plenary 1. (Auditorium)			
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome and Conference Programme Day 1: <b>NADEOSA Vice-President Jako Poolman (BMT College)</b>		
09:10 – 09:20	Official Welcome and Introduction of Keynote: <b>NADEOSA President: Ruth Aluko (University of Pretoria)</b>		
09:20 – 09:50	Keynote 1: Student Success as a Priority: <b>Prof Alan Amory (Saide)</b>		
09:50 – 10:10	Q&A Discussion for Keynote speaker 1		
10:10 – 10:30	Tea Break		
Session 2: First Parallel Session, 10:30 - 12:00			
	<b>Room 1 (Auditorium)</b> <i>Theme: First Year Experience</i> Chair: Ephraim Mhlanga (Saide)	<b>Room 2 (Mus 2-45)</b> <i>Theme: Learning Analytics</i> Chair: Rassie Louw (NWU)	<b>Room 3 (Annexe)</b> <i>Theme: Graduate Employability</i> Chair: Greig Krull (Wits)
10:30 – 10:50	Post-COVID-19 online learning in the private higher education distance learning niche: First-year student experiences and perceptions in Durban <b>Coster Ruzengwe &amp; Marlini Moodley (MANCOSA)</b>	Learner Analytics: learning from the analysis of the first assessment <b>Ashton Maherry (Saide) &amp; Randhir Rawatlal (University of KwaZulu-Natal)</b>	An analysis of the sufficiency of graduate attributes for the workplace in the aftermath of the Covid pandemic <b>Omolola Arise (MANCOSA)</b>
10:50 – 11:00	Q & A	Q & A	Q & A



11:00 – 11:20	An emerging first year experience model in South Africa universities <b>Ephraim Mhlanga (Saide)</b>	An evaluation of the ability of the LMS System and data analytics to identify students at risk: A private higher education institution <b>Truida Oosthuizen &amp; Jeanette Smit (STADIO Higher Education)</b>	The direct impact of the South African student first-year experience on graduate employability <b>Winiswa Mavutha, Nikita Reddy &amp; Aradhana Ramnund-Mansing (MANCOSA)</b>
11:20 – 11:30	Q & A	Q & A	Q & A
11:30 - 11:50	Towards quality education: Exploring the challenges faced by first year tertiary students from disadvantaged schools in KZN, South Africa <b>Claudine Hingston &amp; Thandokuhle Mkhize (MANCOSA)</b>	Harnessing learning analytics to bolster first-year success in online TVET education amidst the COVID-19 pandemic <b>Vusi Maseko (South West Gauteng TVET College)</b>	-
11:50 – 12:00	Q & A	Q & A	
Session 3: Second Parallel Session, 12:00 - 13:00			
	<b>Room 1 (Auditorium)</b> <i>Theme: Academic Advising</i> Chair: Greig Krull (Wits)	<b>Room 2 (Mus 2-45)</b> <i>Theme: Student Diversity</i> Chair: Jeanette Smit (STADIO HE)	<b>Room 3 (Annexe)</b> <i>Theme: Teacher Education Support</i> Chair: Mary Ooko (UP)
12:00 – 12:20	Artificial Intelligence tools	Student support for incarcerated females	Promoting student success through



	for student advising in Southern African ODeL programmes <b>Karen Ferreira-Meyers (University of Eswatini)</b>	in open distance learning contexts <b>Mbongiseni Mdakane, Sindile Ngubane, Zanele Dhlamini &amp; Bongani Nkambule (University of South Africa)</b>	student support: An example from a distance teacher education programme in an emerging economy <b>Ruth Aluko, Mary Ooko &amp; Zaheera Cassim-Lambart (University of Pretoria)</b>
12:20 – 12:30	Q & A	Q & A	Q & A
12:30 – 12:50	Intentionally integrating academic professional learning and student advising practices to support student success <b>Greig Krull (University of Witwatersrand)</b>	The lived experiences of offenders enrolled in an ODeL university: a career counselling perspective in a correctional centre <b>Mamashu Mabowa, Mbongiseni Mdakane, &amp; Eduard Fourie (University of South Africa)</b>	In-service teachers' experiences of support on an inclusive education training programme: a South Africa perspective <b>Tshililo Nembambula, Mary Ooko &amp; Ruth Aluko (University of Pretoria)</b>
12:50 – 13:00	Q & A	Q & A	Q & A
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break		
Session 4: Plenary 2. (Auditorium)			
14:00 – 14:05	Introduction of Keynote Speaker: <b>NADEOSA Exco Member, Ephraim Mhlanga (Saide)</b>		
14:05 – 14:40	Keynote 2: Graduate Employability: <b>Prof Chika Sehoole (University of Pretoria)</b>		
14:40 - 15:00	Q&A Discussion for Keynote speaker 2		
Session 5: Plenary 3. (Auditorium)			
15.00 – 15.30	General Discussion of Day 1 and Reflection		
15.30 – 16.00	Networking Break		
16.00 – 17.00	<b>Cocktail Reception</b>		

**Day 2: Friday 26 May 2023**

Time	Session	
08.00 – 09.00	Arrivals and Tea/Coffee	
Session 6: Plenary 3. (Auditorium)		
09:00 – 09:10	Conference Programme Day 2 and Introduction of Keynote <b>NADEOSA Exco Member, Greig Krull (University of the Witwatersrand)</b>	
09:10 – 09:40	Keynote 3: A Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) For Higher Education in South Africa: <b>Dr Britta Zawada (Council on Higher Education)</b>	
09:40 – 10:00	Q&A Discussion for Keynote speaker 3	
10:00 - 10:30	Tea Break	
Session 7: Third Parallel Session, 10:30 - 12:00		
	<b>Room 1 (Auditorium)</b> <i>Theme: Inclusiveness</i> Chair: Mary Ooko (UP)	<b>Room 2 (Mus 2-45)</b> <i>Theme: Changing Practices</i> Chair: Jenny Glennie (Saide)
10:30 – 10:50	Injecting Ubuntu in designing accessible virtual learning for first-year students with disabilities <b>Thuli Shandu-Phetla, Sindile Ngubane &amp; O.T. Adigun (University of South Africa)</b>	The Impact of Changing Assessment Practices on Student Success in Public Administration and Management at the University of the Free State <b>Mojaesi Violet Phejane (University of the Free State)</b>
10:50 – 11:00	Q & A	Q & A
11:00 – 11:20	Promoting access, inclusion and participation of students with disabilities in South	Innovative open distance and e-learning multimodal supervision practices for Masters and Doctoral candidates



	African private higher education <b><i>Hatikanganwi Mapudzi &amp; Jane Baloyi (MANCOSA)</i></b>	<b><i>Mphahlele Ramashego Shila (University of South Africa)</i></b>
11:20 – 11:30	Q & A	Q & A
11:30 – 11:50	Going beyond physical spaces: Designing inclusive teaching and learning opportunities using a holistic Universal Design for Learning (UDL) lens <b><i>Adriano Giulio Giovanelli (University of the Witwatersrand)</i></b>	Re-examining feasibility of Extended Curriculum Programmes (ECPs) in private higher education institutions in South Africa <b><i>Sindisiwe Nzimande &amp; Farai Nyika (MANCOSA)</i></b>
11:50 – 12:00	Q & A	Q & A
Session 8: Fourth Parallel Session, 12:00 - 13:00		
	<b>Room 1 (Auditorium)</b> <i>Theme: Student Support</i> Chair: Ruth Aluko (UP)	<b>Room 2 (Mus 2-45)</b> <i>Theme: Learning Support Tools</i> Chair: Mojaesi Violet Phejane (UFS)
12:00 - 12:20	Towards an understanding of student success: Lecturer's definition in the private higher education sector <b><i>André van der Westhuizen, Katie-Lynne Roebert &amp; Eugene Lee Davids (Varsity College)</i></b>	Using asynchronous discussion to create a community of inquiry and promote student engagement in distance education: A literature review <b><i>Lindi Snyman (IEMSA)</i></b>
12:20 – 12:30	Q & A	Q & A



12:30 – 12:50	A widening of the digital divide and an increase in inequalities within student support services <b>Robert Molepo &amp; Dolly Molefe (University of the Free State)</b>	The feasibility of using e-portfolios in teaching and learning at an African University <b>Ephraim Mhlanga (Saide)</b>
12:50 – 13:00	Q & A	Q & A
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break	
Session 9: Plenary 5. (Auditorium)		
14:00 – 14:05	Introduction of Panel <b>NADEOSA Exco Member, Jenny Glennie (Saide)</b>	
14:05 – 14:50	Student Success Panel Discussion: <b>Prof Ntabiseng Ogude (University of Pretoria)</b> <b>Dr Tebogo Tsebe (Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University)</b> <b>Mr Lekau Rachidi (University of South Africa)</b>	
14:50 – 15:10	Q&A Discussion for Panel	
15:10 – 15:25	Reflection of Conference	
15.25 – 15.30	Official Closure <b>NADEOSA President: Ruth Aluko (University of Pretoria)</b>	
15.30 – 16.00	Tea Break and Departures	



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## Notes



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Thank you

A special thank you to the conference organising committee and the University of Pretoria for hosting the conference, to all of our abstract reviewers, and to *Saide*. Nadeosa would also like to thank STADIO for donating water for the conference and the University of Pretoria for the flowers for the conference rooms.



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