



## Engagement Office

### Annual Report

2016

Dr Belinda du Plooy

Manager: Engagement

<http://caec.nmmu.ac.za/Engagement-Information-and-Development>

## Introduction

Engagement is one of the three core functions of NMMU, as outlined in the Vision 2020 set of institutional strategic documents. The institution's vision emphasises the integratedness of the three higher education core functions, namely Teaching and Learning, Research and Engagement. Engagement is therefore viewed as a scholarly activity as well as a response to societal needs. As the third core function of Higher Education, Engagement is the process of transferring, applying and sharing the university's knowledge and resources with those of the broader community (both internal and external) to

- enrich scholarship, research and creative activity
- enhance teaching and learning
- strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility
- contribute to public good and transformation and
- enhance social, economic and ecological sustainability.

The NMMU's engagement activities and projects fall within four broad categories that are set out in the institutional Engagement Conceptual Framework and Typology. These four categories are: Engagement through Community Interaction, Service and Outreach; Engagement through Professional/Discipline-based Service Provision; Engagement through Teaching and Learning; and Engagement through Research and Scholarship. NMMU's Engagement activities fall along an extended, interdependent and integrated continuum and they often straddle these categories:

Outreach & Community Service	Professional/Discipline Based Service Provision	Teaching and Learning	Research and Scholarship
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graduate Placement</li> <li>• Networking and Partnership Development</li> <li>• Open Days/Careers Fairs</li> <li>• Clinical Service</li> <li>• Non-disciplined based volunteerism</li> <li>• Media Consultation</li> <li>• Outreach programmes to under serviced communities</li> <li>• Winter Schools</li> <li>• Counselling Services</li> <li>• Socio-cultural activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consulting and professional services</li> <li>• Partner in socio-economic projects</li> <li>• Contribute to public debate/Conferences</li> <li>• Partnerships with local and national agencies</li> <li>• Research based policy recommendations</li> <li>• Expert testimony</li> <li>• Public scholarship</li> <li>• Technology Commercialisation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service Learning</li> <li>• Work-integrated/Based learning/Clinical Practice</li> <li>• Discipline related Volunteerism</li> <li>• CPD/Customised Programmes/SLP's</li> <li>• Part-time off-campus programmes</li> <li>• Project based learning</li> <li>• Internships</li> <li>• Clinical Practical</li> <li>• Conferences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participatory</li> <li>• Action Research</li> <li>• Applied Research</li> <li>• Collaborative Research</li> <li>• Professional Services</li> <li>• Technology Transfer</li> <li>• Contract Research</li> <li>• Evaluation and Impact studies</li> <li>• Problem analysis and solving.</li> </ul>

*NMMU's Engagement Conceptual Framework and Typology*

## **Engagement Information and Development (EID) Unit – since 2014**

Dr Belinda du Plooy manages the Engagement Information and Development Unit, which was established in January 2014 and which comprises the following portfolios:

- Engagement Entities
- Engagement Excellence Awards
- Engagement Advancement Funding
- The Engagement Management Information System, and
- The annual Engagement Colloquium as flagship event for Engagement at NMMU
- Engagement-focused writing for publication initiatives



*Dr Belinda du Plooy,  
Manager: Engagement*

### **1. Engagement Entities**

<http://caec.nmmu.ac.za/Engagement-Information-and-Development/Engagement-Entities-at-NMMU>

An Engagement Entity is normally an institutional entity where 80% of its activities/projects are Engagement related. These activities mainly fall within the four categories of the NMMU Engagement Conceptual Framework. Engagement entities are intended to develop and strengthen existing Engagement and scholarly activities through the development of mutually beneficial partnerships with external communities that are consistent with the University's strategic direction and priorities.

The University recognises three categories of Engagement entities. Entity categories are hierarchical in nature in terms of scope, complexity and leadership ranging from Institutes (upper end) to Units (lower end). A Unit may evolve into Centre status and a Centre may evolve into Institute status. There are currently ten registered Engagement Entities at NMMU:

- Unit for Biokinetics and Sports Science
- Govan Mbeki Maths Development Unit
- Unit for Statistical Consultation
- University Psychology Clinic (including the Community Psychology Centre, Missionvale Campus)
- The Spatial Technologies Unit
- Centre for Integrated Post-school Education and Training
- Advanced Mechatronic Technology Centre
- SA Cisco Academy Support Centre

- Centre for Law in Action (including Refugee Rights Centre, Centre for Sustainable Development, Centre for Government Support, Centre for Access to Justice and Law Clinic)
- Centre for Community School

## **2. Engagement Excellence Awards**

<http://caec.nmmu.ac.za/Engagement-Information-and-Development/Engagement-Excellence-Awards>

The university has been acknowledging and celebrating excellence in Engagement since 2012 with its annual Engagement Excellence Awards. Previous winners include Prof Danie Hattingh and eNtsa (Engineering, the Built Environment and IT - EBEIT), Prof Paul Webb (Education), Prof Ben Zeelie and InnoVenton (Chemistry, Science), Dr Ronel Nel (Zoology, Science), Mr Karl du Preez (AMTC, EBEIT), Dr Andre Du Plessis (Education), Prof Werner Olivier (Govan Mbeki Maths Development Unit), Dr Ann Lourens and the Department of Industrial Engineering, Mr Kempie van Rooyen (Psychology), Prof Hennie van As (Centre for Law in Action), Prof Christo Fabricius (Sustainability Research Unit, George Campus), Prof Frans Prinsloo and Ms Elize Naudé (Accounting), Prof Johan van Niekerk (Centre for Research in Information and Cyber Security), Ms Mary Duker and Mr David Jones (Faculty of Arts) and Dr Tim Pittaway (Agriculture and Game Management).

*At its annual prestige award function in September 2016 NMMU again recognised the important contributions staff members make to Engagement Excellence. Awards were made to Mr Gareth Williams (Music), Ms Kim Elliott and the 67 Hours project team (Student Governance), Dr Jenny Jansen and Dr Rosemary Exner (Missionvale Community Psychology Centre), Prof Margaret Cullen and Prof André Calitz (Destination Nelson Mandela Bay project – Business School & Computing Sciences), Prof Moctar Doucouré and Mr Barry Morkel (AEON/ESSRI) and Prof Raymond Auerbach (Agricultural Management, George Campus).*

Awards were made on the basis of applications submitted by staff members and were based on Engagement work conducted during 2015. The annual Engagement Excellence Awards process is managed by the Engagement Office. Due to the exceptional high quality of Engagement work at NMMU, in 2015 the number of annual Engagement Awards were increased to six in order to align with the larger number of Teaching and Learning and Research Awards and to acknowledge, award and showcase more of the Engagement Excellence at NMMU.

**Engagement Excellence Award - Prof Raymond Auerbach  
(Agricultural Management, George Campus) and Prof Andrew Leitch, DVC: Research and  
Engagement**



**Engagement Excellence Team Award - Mr Barry Morkel  
(AEON/ESSRI, Faculty of Science) and Prof Andrew Leitch, DVC: Research and  
Engagement**





**Engagement Excellence Team Award - Prof Margaret Cullen & Prof André Calitz  
(Business School & Computing Sciences) and Prof Andrew Leitch, DVC: Research and  
Engagement**



**Engagement Excellence Project Award - Dr Jennifer Jansen & Dr Rosemary Exner  
(Missionvale Community Psychology Centre) and Prof Andrew Leitch, DVC: Research  
and Engagement**



**Engagement Excellence Project Award - Ms Kim Elliott (Student Governance & Development) and Prof Denise Zinn, DVC: Teaching & Learning**



**Emerging Engagement Excellence Award - Mr Gareth Williams (Music) and Prof Denise Zinn, DVC: Teaching & Learning**



### 3. Engagement Advancement Funding

<http://caec.nmmu.ac.za/Engagement-Information-and-Development/Engagement-Advancement-Fund>

In 2016 NMMU for the third time awarded funding grants specifically aimed at supporting Engagement projects. The following projects were supported:

NMMU Arts & Culture Drama Programme	Mr Michael Barry	Arts & Culture
Shell Eco Car Marathon	Mr Clive Hands	Mechanical Engineering
Heritage and Cultural Centre: NMMU George Campus	Mr Martin Loubser	George Campus Operations
Science to Schools Outreach	Dr Gletwyn Rubidge	Chemistry
NMMU Baja Bug	Mr Trevor Stroud	Mechanical Engineering
Pay-it-Forward Community Outreach Initiative	Dr Amanda Werner	Human Resource Management
HIV Adolescent Empowerment Project	Dr Rosemary Chimbala-Kalenga	HIV/AIDS Unit
Monitoring Peer Helper Engagement Through Innovative Technology	Ms Marina De Jager & Ms Fareedah Sauls	Student Counselling
Hope In The Heart UK-SA North-South Collaboration Compassion-based project	Dr Belinda du Plooy	Engagement Office
67 Hours Volunteer Service	Ms Kim Elliott	Student Affairs
Mobilizing Stakeholders for Collaborative Management of Invasive Alien Plants in the Garden Route	Prof Christo Fabricius	Sustainability Research Unit
Ubomi Obutsha Growth Monitoring Site	Ms Phumeza Mkontwana	Lifestyle Sciences
Masikulisane Reading Project	Dr Eileen Scheckle	SITE
e-Skills Development in Low Income Areas	Prof Darelle van Greunen	Information Technology
Rape Crisis Intervention Project	Mr Kempie van Rooyen	Psychology
Sound of Learning (SOUL) Project	Mr Gareth Williams	Music

These grants will continue to be made on an annual basis for Engagement projects and initiatives that are of strategic value to the NMMU and that are not directly funded via Teaching and Learning and Research funding sources. Innovative projects and initiatives that contribute towards the



integrated teaching and learning, research and service functions of the university receive preference. New and existing Engagement projects qualify for funding. The fund therefore provides project funding for establishing and developing new Engagement initiatives and for expanding and sustaining existing Engagement initiatives.

#### **4. The Third NMMU Engagement Colloquium**

<http://caec.nmmu.ac.za/Engagement-Information-and-Development/2015-Second-NMMU-Engagement-Colloquium>

<http://caec.nmmu.ac.za/Engagement-Information-and-Development/2014-First-NMMU-Engagement-Colloquium>

NMMU Engagement Colloquiums are held annually and serves as a platform for showcasing Engagement Excellence and best practice at NMMU. It is also an opportunity to evaluate institutional Engagement priorities and goals and to identify specific needs related to Engagement training, funding, infrastructure and support. Presentations are recorded and are available for viewing on the above mentioned web pages. This creates an institutional repository of exemplary projects, while also serving as a medium to showcase Engagement work at NMMU to internal and external audiences, as well as serving as a tool for mentorship, building of a community of practice and developing a scholarship of Engagement.

Due to student protest and the resulting shut down of the university in September and October, the 2016 Engagement Colloquium was postponed and will now take place in 2017.

#### **5. The Engagement Information Development web pages**

<http://caec.nmmu.ac.za/Engagement-Information-and-Development>

These have been extensively developed as an easily accessible and user-friendly repository of information and documents relating to Engagement, a tool to showcase Engagement at NMMU (video clips of colloquium presentations and slide shows are available for viewing) and as an ongoing site for the building of a community of practice around Engagement and the development of a scholarship of Engagement at NMMU. The intention is that this will serve as a 'one-stop-shop' for Engagement-related matters at NMMU.

## **6. Engagement Information Management System (E-MIS)**

<http://caec.nmmu.ac.za/Engagement-Information-and-Development/Engagement-Management-Information-System>

In 2014 NMMU introduced and implemented the first in-house developed Engagement Management Information System (E-MIS) in South African Higher Education. The primary purpose is to provide a way that NMMU's Engagement footprint and effectiveness can be tracked and data of close to 190 projects were loaded onto the system by the end of 2016. The E-MIS is aligned with the NMMU's Engagement Conceptual Framework and its four categories.

The E-MIS was a collaborative development project between the Engagement Office and ICT Services. The system was developed by a BTech student in Information Technology, Brent Styles, and implemented under the technical guidance of Dierdre Els and Chenel Robey (ICT Services). The system holds many benefits in terms of institutional planning and quality control. For staff members who are actively involved with some form of Engagement at NMMU, the most obvious benefits will be: their Engagement projects and activities will be noticed and acknowledged via Management systems and structures (this creates a space to showcase what they are doing); they will create an accessible central repository for their project information by means of which they can track, review, report on and plan their projects; they will be able to use the E-MIS summative reports as part of their personal portfolio for promotions, assessments, funding and award applications

## **7. First and Second Engagement/Engaged Scholarship Writing for Publication Retreats**

<http://caec.nmmu.ac.za/Engagement-Information-and-Development/CAEC-Engaged-Scholarship-Writing-for-Publication-R>

### **2015/16 Retreat:**

The first Writing for Publication Retreat (held in October 2015 and January 2016) resulted in 3 conference papers (Mr Kempie van Rooyen with two postgraduate students, Ms Shena Lamb, Dr Belinda du Plooy) that were delivered at a local conference and 11 articles submitted to accredited journals, of which two have already been published (Dr Ann Lourens and Dr Karl van der Merwe) and two more have been provisionally accepted for publication; others are still under review with journals or being reworked for resubmission.

### 2015/16 Participants:

Ms Bianca Currie - Sustainability Research Unit (George Campus)

Ms Mary Duker - Art & Design

Dr Rosemary Exner - Health Sciences, Missionvale Community Clinic

Dr Jenny Jansen, Health Sciences, Missionvale Community Clinic

Dr Ann Lourens - Industrial Engineering

Dr Maryna Baard - Human Movement Science

Ms Claudette Leppan - Public Relations

Ms Shena Lamb - Politics & Conflict Management

Prof Louise Stroud - Psychology

Dr Karl van der Merwe - Industrial Engineering

Dr David Morton - Nursing Science

Prof Raymond Auerbach - Sustainability Research Unit (George Campus)

Dr Belinda du Plooy – Engagement Office



### **2016/17 Retreat:**

The Office of Engagement hosted NMMU's second Engagement-focused Writing for Publication Retreat in September 2016 and January 2017. This one-day conceptualisation session (September) and 4-day dedicated writing retreat (January 2016) provided the space and time to staff members who have publishable data about Engagement practices at NMMU to construct articles for publication in peer reviewed and accredited journals. It will also grows a dedicated Engagement-focused scholarship network and community of practice at NMMU.

2016/17 Participants:

Dr Maryna Baard - Human Movement Science

Dr Phil Collett - Govan Mbeki Maths Development Unit

Mr Kempie van Rooyen - Psychology

Ms Mary Duker - Art & Design

Ms Natalie Mansvelt - Social Development Professions

Dr Avivit Cherrington - Education

Dr Eileen Scheckle - Education

Ms Kumaree Moodley - Office for Institutional Planning

Dr Zoliswa Made - Language & Literature

Dr Belinda du Plooy - Engagement Office

