



**Engagement Office**  
**Unit for Engagement Information and Development**  
**Annual Report**  
**2017**

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(<http://caec.mandela.ac.za/Engagement-Information-and-Development>)

## Introduction

Engagement is one of the three core functions of Nelson Mandela University. 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 Nelson Mandela University'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. Nelson Mandela University'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>

*Nelson Mandela University's Engagement Conceptual Framework and Typology*

## Engagement Information and Development (EID) Unit

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
- The annual Engagement Colloquium as flagship event for Engagement at Nelson Mandela University
- Engagement-focused writing for publication initiatives



*Dr Belinda du Plooy,  
Manager: Engagement*

### 1. Engagement Entities

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 Nelson Mandela University 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. The following are currently registered Engagement Entities at Nelson Mandela University:

- Unit for Biokinetics and Sports Science
- Govan Mbeki Maths Development Centre
- University Psychology Clinic (including the Community Psychology Centre, Missionvale Campus)
- 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
- eNtsa
- Labour and Social Security Law Unit
- South African International Maritime Institute

## **2. 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), Dr Tim Pittaway (Agriculture and Game Management), 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).

*At its annual prestige award function in September 2017 Nelson Mandela University again recognised the important contributions staff members make to Engagement Excellence. Awards were made to Prof Elmarie Venter (Business Management), Prof Darelle van Greunen (IT), Ms Blondie Ntsiko (Library Information Services), Dr Marilyn Gibbs (Education), Prof Cheryl Walter (Human Movement Science), Prof Hennie van As (Law), Prof Janine Adams (Institute for Coastal and Marine Research) and Prof Danie Hattingh (eNtsa).*

Awards were made on the basis of applications submitted by staff members and were based on Engagement work conducted during 2016. Due to the exceptional high quality of Engagement work at Nelson Mandela University, in 2017 the number of annual Engagement Awards were increased to eight 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 Nelson Mandela University.

**Engagement Excellence Award - Prof Elmarie Venter (Business Management) with DVC:  
Research and Engagement, Prof Andrew Leitch**



**Engagement Excellence Award - Prof Darelle van Greunen (School of ICT) with DVC:  
Research and Engagement, Prof Andrew Leitch**



**Emerging Engagement Excellence Award - Ms Tenjie Solundwana (on behalf of Library and Information Services) with DVC: Research and Engagement, Prof Andrew Leitch**



**Engagement Excellence Project Award - Dr Marilyn Gibbs (Maths Education) with DVC: Research and Engagement, Prof Andrew Leitch**



**Engagement Excellence Project Award - Prof Cheryl Walter (Human Movement Science)  
with DVC: Research and Engagement, Prof Andrew Leitch**



**Engagement Excellence Project Award - Prof Hennie van As (Law in Action) with DVC:  
Research and Engagement, Prof Andrew Leitch**





**Engagement Excellence Team Award - Prof Janine Adams (Institute for Coastal and Marine Research) with DVC: Research and Engagement, Prof Andrew Leitch**



**Engagement Excellence Team Award - Mr Akshay Lakhani and Mr Hubert van der Merwe (eNtsa) with DVC: Research and Engagement, Prof Andrew Leitch**





### 3. Engagement Advancement Funding

In 2017, Nelson Mandela University for the fourth time awarded funding grants specifically aimed at supporting Engagement projects. The following projects were supported:

Title	Name	Surname	Project Title	Department	Faculty/Division
Mr	Michael	Barry	Arts & Culture Drama Programme	Arts & Culture	Communication & Stakeholder Liaison
Ms	Mary	Duker	Art Meets Science Meets Place	SoMAD	Arts
Dr	Amanda	Werner	Pay-it-Forward Community Outreach Initiative	Human Resource Management	Business and Economic Sciences
Dr	Belinda	Du Plooy	Hope In The Heart UK-SA North-South Collaboration Compassion-based project	Engagement Office	DVC:R&E
Ms	Shanene	Olivera	Zanempilo (Mobile Clinic) - Training the Trainers: A Community Health Care Initiative	Clinical Care	Health Sciences
Dr	Eileen	Scheckle	Masikulisane Reading Project	SITE	Education
Mr	Gareth	Williams	Sound of Learning (SOUL) Project	Music	Arts
Dr	Jennifer	Jansen	7P Project	Missionvale Psychology Clinic	Health Sciences
Dr	Timothy	Pittaway	Small Scale Vegetable Production Tech Transfer	Agriculture	Science

Prof	Gerrit	Crafford	JBCC Principal Building Agreement Case Study Competition	Quantity Surveying	EBEIT
Ms	Gail	Halferty	Soccer Charity Cup	Human Movement Science	Health Sciences
Dr	Magda	Minguzzi	The Way of Water	Architecture	Arts
Ms	Karen	Snyman	Enactus	Student Life	Student Governance
Prof	Margaret	Cullen	Business School Women's Forum	Business School	Business and Economic Sciences
Ms	Debbie	Mattheus	Strengthening Community Capacity to Reduce Crime	Community Development Unit	DVC:R&E
Dr	Suzette	Du Rand	Fairview Community - Interprofessional Support	IPE	Health Sciences
Prof	Darelle	Van Greunen	Project Phuhlisa	CCT	EBEIT

These grants will continue to be made on an annual basis for Engagement projects and initiatives that are of strategic value to Nelson Mandela University 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 Nelson Mandela University Engagement Colloquium**

Nelson Mandela University Engagement Colloquiums are held annually and serve as a platforms for showcasing Engagement Excellence and best practice at Nelson Mandela University. 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 university web pages. This creates an institutional repository of exemplary projects, while also serving as a medium to showcase Engagement work at Nelson Mandela University 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.

*The following presentations formed part of the 2017 Colloquium:*

*Dr Jennifer Jansen and Ms Mingon du Preez, 2016 Engagement Excellence Project Award Winners, Missionvale Community Psychology Centre*

*Prof Esmeralda Ricks and Ms Shanene Olivera, Faculty of Health Sciences, Zanempilo Mobile Health Clinic*

*Mr Kempie van Rooyen, Psychology, Rape Crisis Interventions*

*Mr Clive Hands, Shell Eco-car Marathon, Mechanical Engineering*

*Ms Kim Elliott, Student Governance, 2016 Engagement Project Award Winners: 67 Hours*

*Mr Jabu Bam and Ms Zikhona Tube, Centre for Community School, Faculty of Education*

*Prof Janet Cherry, Development Studies, Transition Township Kwazakhele*

*Dr Eileen Scheckle and Ms Lesley Young, Masikulisane Reading Project, Faculty of Education*

*Mr Gareth Williams, Music, 2016 Emerging Engagement Excellence Award Winner*

*Mr Michael Barry and Nicki-Ann Rayepen, Arts, Culture and Heritage*





### 5. The Engagement Information Development web pages

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 Nelson Mandela University (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 Nelson Mandela University. The intention

is that this will serve as a 'one-stop-shop' for Engagement-related matters at Nelson Mandela University.

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

In 2014 Nelson Mandela University 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 Nelson Mandela University's Engagement footprint and effectiveness can be tracked and data of close to 200 projects were loaded onto the system by the end of 2017. The E-MIS is aligned with the Nelson Mandela University'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 Nelson Mandela University, 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. Scholarship Writing for Publication Retreats**

Writing for Publication Retreats were held in 2016 and 2017 and resulted in four conference papers (Mr Kempie van Rooyen with two postgraduate students, Ms Shena Lamb, Dr Belinda du Plooy, Dr Jennifer Jansen and Ms Mingon du Preez) that were delivered at local and international conferences. More than a dozen articles were submitted to accredited journals, of which five have already been published (Dr Ann Lourens, Dr Karl van der Merwe, Dr Jennifer Jansen, Dr Rosemary Exner and Dr Belinda du Plooy). Others have been provisionally accepted for publication; more are still under review with journals or being reworked for resubmission. Not only do these initiatives create conducive spaces for scholarship development, they also build cohorts of multi-disciplinary collaboration and collegiality across the university, develop the capacity of staff members and raise awareness and funding for the university by disseminating



knowledge through conference presentations and publication. In 2016 this initiative generated more than half a million rand for the university through publication subsidy.

