

APPLICATION FORM: NMMU ENGAGEMENT EXCELLENCE AWARDS

(CONSULT THE NMMU ENGAGEMENT EXCELLENCE AWARDS POLICY AND READ THE APPLICATION FORM BEFORE COMPLETING THE TEMPLATE IN ORDER AVOID A DUPLICATION OF INFORMATION.)
COMPLETE THIS FORM IN TYPESCRIPT. PROVIDE ONLY THE INFORMATION REQUESTED.

SECTION A: Application category		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicate with an X in the appropriate box the award you are applying for. Your application will only be considered for the award you have applied for 	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; gap: 10px;"> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Engagement Excellence Award – Science, Technology and Engineering</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Engagement Excellence Award – Social Sciences and Humanities</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Engagement Excellence Team Award</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Engagement Excellence Project Award – Science, Technology and Engineering</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Engagement Excellence Project Award – Social Sciences and Humanities</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emerging Engagement Excellence Awards <i>(note that Professors and Associate Professors are not eligible for this category)</i></div> </div>	
Surname of Applicant/Team Leader	Pittaway	
First Name	Timothy	
Initials	TM	
Title	Dr	
Telephone numbers	041 5043634 / 082 6573015	
E-mail address	Timothy.pittaway@nmmu.ac.za	
Employment position held at NMMU	Lecturer	
Faculty	Science	
Department	Agriculture	
Division		
Immediate line-manager	Prof Pieter van Niekerk	
Eligibility: Are you permanently employed and/or on a long term (3 years or more) fixed contract? <i>(indicate with an X)</i>	Permanent X	Fixed term contract

Description of engagement activities and initiatives

The agriculture engagement programme is called EXPOSURE and aims to: increase student exposure to small-scale sustainable agriculture, enhance student employability and engage in meaningful service. The EXPOSURE programme consists of the following seven projects:

- 1) **Agriculture outreach:** Fifty agriculture students were involved in assisting and contributing towards communities that are susceptible to food shortages. The students were divided into groups and required to develop vegetable home gardens for their communities of choice. The communities that benefitted from these projects were mainly from Eastern Cape and KZN (see map on Addendum 1). Students were able to extend this project to enhance their BtC programme hours. This project started in 2013 to facilitate connection between academic learning with complex agrarian issues and also to give opportunity for students to give back to their own communities.
- 2) **Cheshire Home agriculture tunnels:** Cheshire home is for fifty-two chronically physically disabled adults who come to live their lives there, either by choice, or because of circumstances beyond their control. Since 2012 the agriculture students have assisted in managing two vegetable tunnels throughout the year. The produce is used in the kitchen or sold as seedlings at the Cheshire yearly fete.
- 3) **Ubomi Obutsha Centre vegetable tunnels:** Obutsha Centre is in Kwazakhele and provides a care centre for vulnerable children, a learning facility and assists in feeding schemes for the hungry and destitute. Since 2012 the agriculture students have assisted in running six vegetable tunnels and teaching the community basic farming skills.
- 4) **Missionvale Care Centre food gardens:** Missionvale Township is home to many of the poorest people in South Africa. Missionvale Care Centre is involved with urban agriculture which assists the community on how to plant home vegetable gardens. Since 2012 the agriculture students have assisted in running workshops, coordinating facilities, two vegetable tunnels and contributing to food security in this township.
- 5) **Siyakholwa Development Foundation:** This foundation alleviates poverty by creating and managing sustainable food projects that facilitates job creation and develops communities in Keiskammahoek. We started supporting this initiative in 2013 and got involved with workshops, help establish the first vetiver grass nursery for soil reclamation and assisted in school garden projects.
- 6) **Tsitsikamma community upliftment:** This project is aimed at assisting in the re-establishing of a community which had experienced forced removals and the brutal relocation during apartheid era. Since 2013 our students have assisted in running workshops and facilitating emerging farmers from this community to participate in a poultry workshop with our agriculture students at NMMU.
- 7) **NMMU Student nutritional project:** This project was first established in 2010 as a small vegetable garden run by NMMU campus health service. The agriculture department became the first academic department to get involved. Our needy NMMU students being the ultimate beneficiaries of vegetables from this campus organic garden.

*refer to portfolio of evidence for further project photos and references in Addendum 2.

<p>Are your Engagement activities/projects/initiatives registered on the Engagement Management Information System (E-MIS) on SharePoint? If not, please ensure that they are before you submit this application. Applications that are not registered and updated on the E-MIS will not be considered for Awards. The most recent date on E-MIS for each project update (achieved when 'submit' is clicked) must be in 2015. Provide the exact titles (as featured on the E-MIS) for all of the Engagement activities/ projects/ initiatives with which you are involved.</p>	<p>Titles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community outreach vegetable gardens 2. Cheshire Home agriculture tunnels 3. Ubomi Obutsha Centre vegetable tunnels 4. Missionvale Care Centre food gardens 5. Siyakholwa Development Foundation 6. Tsitsikamma community upliftment 7. NMMU Student nutritional project
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SECTION B: Engagement categories

- You are required to describe and report in detail on a minimum of two engagement categories (these are 1, 2, 3 and 4 below) in order to be considered for an award.
- If you or your team are involved in three or four of the engagement categories, report in detail on all of these categories.
- Applications that describe and can provide evidence of engagement activities across all four categories are encouraged.
- Refer to section 5 of the attached Engagement Excellence Awards policy which provides a guideline on the specific activities you should report on under each of the categories you have chosen.

Report on: Engagement through Community Interaction, Service and Outreach:

All seven of the projects are ongoing programmes that were initiated between 2013-2014. The projects have stimulated tremendous participation from students, staff and the communities. The impact of the projects have exceeded expectations and have been reached beyond the borders of Port Elizabeth.

The following outcomes were achieved through community interaction, service and outreach

- 1) Provide projects that gives back to the community what the students have learnt.
- 2) Teach environmental friendly agriculture techniques.
- 3) Provide opportunities for students to contribute to their own communities.
- 4) Strengthening relationships with governmental organization such as CWP and upliftment programmes.

Report on: Engagement through Teaching and Learning:

This programme provided involvement off-campus experiential learning and work provision for NMMU students. Over four farming workshops have been offered over the different projects during 2014 which gave opportunity to provide the community with sustainable vegetable growing guidelines. Non-traditional students have been able to have a chance to participate at NMMU.

SECTION C: Descriptions

1. Describe the impact your Engagement activities have made on stakeholders/beneficiaries/communities and provide details on how these activities are acknowledged/recognized by:

1.1. External communities/stakeholders/beneficiaries:
(not staff and students of NMMU)

Agriculture outreach:
Since inception of this project it is estimated that over fifty communities throughout South Africa have benefitted from established gardens and advice from our agriculture students.

Cheshire community:
The disabled community have benefitted through student friendship, involvement and fresh vegetables at the home. Students have received a letter of acknowledgement for their hard work (Addendum 3).

Missionvale Care Centre and Ubomi Obutsha Centre: Communities in Kwazakhele and Missionvale area have benefitted from student involvement and participation. In 2014 Sasol have recognized this project potential by donating R10,000.

Siyakholwa Development Foundation:
The students were involved in a vetiver grass project which aims establishing soil reclamation for over 1.5km in the Ciskei area. This will provide community with increased arable land.

Tsitsikamma community upliftment: The poultry workshop has empowered emerging farmers to improve income for their community.

NMMU Student nutritional project: This project provides nutritional support to 1200 NMMU students and the campus garden has been the only source of fresh vegetables.

1.2. Internal communities/stakeholders/beneficiaries:
(staff and students of NMMU)

The programme has provided students opportunities to engage in volunteering and community service activities. It is estimated that the projects have generated over 2000 community service hours in 2014.

2. Describe how your Engagement activities contribute towards faculty/department/entity engagement goals and objectives. (Refer to your Department/Faculty/Entity's strategic plan here)

The goal is to prepare our agriculture students for in-service training by providing learning experiences beyond the class room and relevant to real life. This programme has given students opportunities to serve with community organizations on projects that are related to the content of their curriculum. This form of pedagogy enables students to integrate the agriculture content of what they have learnt into the community projects.

3. Describe how your Engagement activities contribute towards the achievement of the NMMU Vision 2020 Engagement Strategic Goals and Objectives. (Refer to the attached NMMU Engagement Strategic Goals and Objectives)

The E.X.P.O.S.U.R.E programme supports the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University's values and stands for **EX**cellence, **P**erseverance, **O**pen mindedness, **S**ervice, **U**plift, **R**esponsibility, **E**nvironmental concern. Exposure is defined as the state of being in contact with something and the programmes aims to equip our students so that they can be exposed to the working world and engage in a challenging farming environment.

4. Describe how your Engagement activities contribute towards: (Refer to any relevant media coverage, representation on boards or committees, scholarly publications, conference presentations etc.)

4.1. Addressing the needs of society and various external communities served by NMMU:

- 1) Contributed to food security.
- 2) Teaching community about sustainable and environmental friendly agriculture.
- 3) Assisted in establishing school vegetable gardens.
- 4) Establishing urban gardens.
- 5) Students receiving in-service training in agriculture.

4.2. Profiling and promoting the NMMU as an engaged university:

The following areas have been involved with promoting the programme:

- 1) Article in Faculty of Science newsletter
- 2) Article in the Eastern Province Herald
- 3) Social media
- 4) NMMU acknowledgment in the Bountiful Grain Trust isiXhosa vegetable guide

*refer to portfolio of evidence for documents in Addendum 4.

5. Describe how you have successfully integrated engagement into the Teaching and Learning and Research functions of the university. (Refer to sections 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 of the Engagement Excellence Awards Policy as a guideline)

The approach of this programme is based on service-learning pedagogy that includes an integration of educational techniques with community relations. It incorporates a range of engagement such as in-service training, community based projects and academic focus. In some of the projects the students we required to do a critical reflective processes on managing with limited resources, challenges and problem solving.

6. Provide details of scholarly outputs/contributions made to a body of knowledge as a result of your engagement activities. (Refer to publications, new teaching programmes, technical reports, conference proceedings, etc.)

The following outputs made to the body of knowledge:

- 1) Measuring instrument for evaluating school vegetable gardens (see attached Addendum 5)
- 2) Sponsorship for translating vegetable growing guide into isiXhosa (see attached Addendum 6)

7. Describe the important role performed by you or the team in:

7.1. The leadership and management of the engagement activities and initiatives:

The programme is largely the result of my interest to know and learn more about small scale agriculture and urban agriculture. My role has been to conceptualize, plan and co-ordinate the seven programmes. I would like to acknowledge that I could not have done any of the projects without the assistance of my students, colleagues and support of my department. My engagement has also included presenting workshops and farming demonstrations at some of the projects. I would like to especially like to thank the following people for their assistance and support:

Riana Swartz (NMMU), Christa Koen (NMMU), Simamkele Satula (NMMU), Grant Dryden (Bountiful Grain Trust), Les Kirkland (Cheshire Homes), Greg Eland (Siyakholwa Development Foundation), Mjijwa, Thembisile (NMMU), Laura Best (NMMU), Prof Andrew Leitch (NMMU), Sr Esterlene Campbell (Missionvale Care Centre), Sr Antoinette Goosen (NMMU), Sr Linda Dalton (NMMU), Elana Storm (NMMU), Mark Lawler (Ubomi Obutsha Centre), Karen Snyman (NMMU), Leonie Beckett (NMMU) and Ryan Bowers (our faithful bus driver).

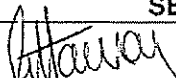
7.2. The level and extent of partnerships/collaborations/networks/linkages formed internally and externally:

a. Internally *(inter-departmental, inter-faculty and interdisciplinary):*

The following NMMU departments/faculties were involved with EXPOSURE programme:

- 1) Faculty of Science (Tsitsikamma community upliftment).
- 2) NMMU CEO Management (Tsitsikamma community upliftment).
- 3) Lebombo residence (NMMU Student nutritional project).
- 4) Department of Nursing Science (SASOL vegetable workshop).
- 5) Campus Health Service (NMMU Student nutritional project)
- 6) NMMU Community Development Unit (MOU Cheshire Home)
- 7) Student Governance & Development (SASOL vegetable workshops).

<p>b. Externally (at local, national and international level):</p>	<p>The following external organizations were involved with EXPOSURE programme:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) SASOL 2) Community Work Programme Keiskammahoek 3) Bountiful Grains Trust 4) Cheshire Home Summerstrand 5) Ubomi Obutsha Centre 6) Siyakholwa Development Foundation 7) Tsitsikamma community 8) Missionvale Care Centre
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SECTION D: Signature			
Applicant Signature		Date	14/03/2015




SECTION E: FOR OFFICE USE	
<i>(Administered by the Centre for Academic Engagement and Collaboration and the NMMU Engagement Committee)</i>	
Resolution regarding application from Awards Committee:	
Feedback to applicant:	

SECTION F: Portfolio of Evidence

- Addendum 1: Map of projects (Section A 1.1)
- Addendum 2: Photo's from engagement activities and initiatives (Section A 1.7)
- Addendum 3: Cheshire Home acknowledgment letter of service (Section C 1.1)
- Addendum 4: Promoting the NMMU as an engaged university (Section C 4.2)
- Addendum 5: Measuring instrument for evaluating school vegetable gardens (Section C6.1)
- Addendum 6: Sponsorship for translating vegetable growing guide into isiXhosa (Section C6.2)

Portfolio of Evidence Addendum 5:

Measuring instrument for evaluating school vegetable gardens (Section C6.1)

Supervisor Name / Reference				/15	Supervisor Name / Reference				/15
1. Permanent pegs	3. YES	2. Some	1. None		1. Permanent pegs	3. YES	2. Some	1. None	
2. Straight lines	3. YES	2. Some	1. None		2. Straight lines	3. YES	2. Some	1. None	
									
3. Thick blanket	3. YES	2. Some	1. None		3. Thick blanket	3. YES	2. Some	1. None	
									
4. Good plant spacing	3. YES	2. Some	1. None		4. Good plant spacing	3. YES	2. Some	1. None	
									
5. Quality, turned Compost	3. YES	2. Some	1. None		5. Quality, turned Compost	3. YES	2. Some	1. None	
									

Portfolio of Evidence Addendum 2:

Photo's from engagement activities and initiatives (Section A 1.7)

1. Community outreach vegetable gardens



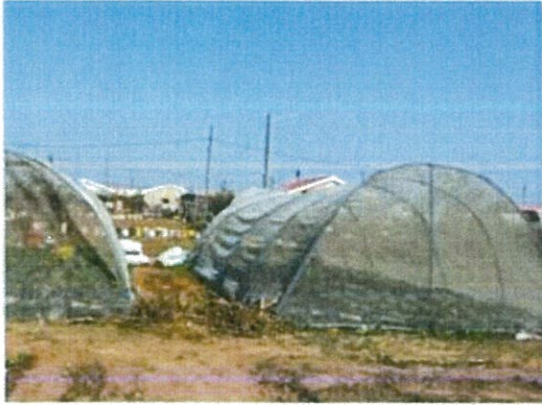
2. Cheshire Home agriculture tunnels



3. Ubomi Obutsha Centre vegetable tunnels



4. Missionvale Care Centre food gardens



5. Siyakholwa Development Foundation



6. Tsitsikamma community upliftment

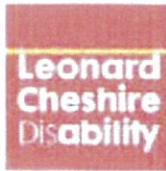


7. NMMU Student nutritional project



Portfolio of Evidence Addendum 3:

Example of Cheshire Home acknowledgment letter of service (Section C 1.1)



Cheshire Home Summerstrand

Services with and for people with disabilities

PO Box 13148, Humewood
Port Elizabeth 6013
Gomery Avenue, Summerstrand

Tel: 041 583 2183
Fax: 041 583 5348
Email: cheshirestrand@telkomsa.net

NMMU DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & GAME MANAGEMENT

The above student's course work at the Nelson Mandela Metro University included a community service project. This student successfully completed his practical training at Cheshire Home Summerstrand.

Cheshire Home Summerstrand is a residential home for 54 chronically physically disabled adults. Most rely on the provision of basic care and rely on a wheelchair for mobility.

The community service included the student completing some of the following tasks:

- Assisting residents with the vegetable tunnels they are responsible for. Residents of Cheshire Home have two tunnels and in order to give them dignity and self-esteem they needed help in growing a crop of spinach. We thank the students of the Dept. of Agriculture for making a difference in the life of our disabled persons.

Disability is generally not well understood in the wider community and we trust that this in-service learning will ensure that Lebohang will be able to work with and for disabled persons in her chosen career of agriculture. She also used the opportunity to learn more about the needs of the residents of the organization. Needed for this was a quality of patience, compassion and empathy – qualities she has shown. An understanding of the challenges facing disabled persons will help her advocate for improved opportunity and support for disabled persons.

We thank Lebohang for her time at Cheshire Home Summerstrand. The positive impact made on the life's of the disabled persons is appreciated and we wish her all the best with her exams.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. A. Kirkland".

L. A. Kirkland
MANAGER

"We will find that it is in going out to help someone whose need is greater than ours, that we solve our own problems and become fulfilled as a person more fully the unique masterpiece that God wills us ultimately to be." – Leonard Cheshire

Portfolio of Evidence Addendum 4:

Promoting the NMMU as an engaged university (Section C 4.2)

The following areas have been involved with promoting the programme:

- 1) Article in Faculty of Science newsletter



Faculty of Science
Discovering tomorrow

NEWS

Statistics First Years



1ST YEAR STATISTICS CLASS...Stats lecturer, Chantelle Clohessy (left back) with some of her 1st year students.

Agriculture students give back



Second year Agriculture students gave back by putting their skills to work for the good of Cheshire Homes' residents. The students are growing vegetables for the kitchens to use on site, as well as ornamental flowers to sell at the upcoming annual Cheshire Fete. Mr Pittaway (Agriculture lecturer) said that the students are encouraged to interact with the community at Cheshire, spending time with the residents and getting them involved. The funnels are wide enough for the residents to be able to wheel in between the garden beds. The Faculty commends Mr Pittaway and his students on their good work!

Research Associate's Function



THE RESEARCH ASSOCIATE'S FUNCTION...We hosted the annual welcoming function for our Research Associates on 26 February at the Rendezvous Café. This is a great opportunity to recognize the RA's appointed and the contributions that they continue to make to the Faculty. We boast 87 RA's this year. From left, Dr Lorien Pichegru, Dr Wayne Goschen, Prof Eileen Campbell and Prof David Bell.

Last Month's Winner



Student passes her skills on to others

Herald Nov 14 - 2014

Alvené du Plessis
duplessisa@timesmedia.co.za

BORN in a rural town in the former Transkei, Phateka Gibeni, an agriculture student at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU), knew how much her community needed skills in farming and gardening to put food on the table.

When Gibeni, 20, goes home for the holidays, she passes her agricultural knowledge on to the poor in Tsolo.

From teaching them to take care of animals to helping them grow vegetable gardens, she has lightened the load of dozens of Tsolo residents.

"Farming and gardening is a big deal at home," she said.

"Our people have been doing it for ages without the proper knowledge and skills.

"The agricultural college in the area has been closed for years, [so] most of them have [no] formal training."

Gibeni teaches rural farmers how to deal with diseases in their animals, how to vaccinate and even to do hoof trimming professionally.

She has helped them grow rows of vegetables, including spinach, lettuce, carrots and fruit.

"Their fruits, vegetables and animals are healthier now. If they don't put them on the table, they sell them



HERE'S HOW: NMMU student Phateka Gibeni teaches Tsolo residents to grow vegetables and fruit, and to care for their livestock

for a bit of money. Either way, it helps to alleviate their poverty," she said.

While her hometown is her main focus, she has extended her training as far as Mount Frere and Mbizana.

Her goal is to pass on her knowledge to any in need of training.

"I started the project as part of an outreach at the university called Beyond the Classroom."

Beyond the Classroom founder Kim-Marie Elliot was proud of NMMU students who walked the extra mile.

"If they learn to give selflessly, we are bound to develop better, more giving citizens," she said.

3) Social media



#NMMUagriculture thanks SasolSA who contributed to the successful Sasol Spinach Project in Kwazakhele today. NMMU4U ow.ly/i/6DTS2



[View on web](#)



11:58 PM - 22 Aug 2019



Partnership between #NMMUagriculture and CWP in establishing a vetiver nursery in Keiskammahoek for #soilconservation ow.ly/i/6IKdl



[View on web](#)



1:16 AM - 30 Aug 2019



Bountiful Grains Trust
February 10, 2018

Vetiver nursery is looking really good! Tim Pittaway

Like Comment Share

Bountiful Grains Trust Its incredible that from just in September we planted out 2200 individual tillers (more like dead looking sticks) + now there are 1800 beautiful plants + 10,000 tillers ready to replicate the process.
Like Reply

Grant Dryden To all the NMMU students who participated in making this community project a reality - this is your fruit guys & gals - well done!!
Like Reply

4) NMMU acknowledgment in the Bountiful Grain Trust isiXhosa vegetable guide

Like Comment Share 2



Bountiful Grains Trust with Morag Gray and Tim Pittaway

13 February · Edited · 2

We are so excited to launch the Farming God's Way Vegetable Guide in Xhosa!!! I just collected the first 100 colour copies.
The translation was done by Vumile Ndzululeka and kindly sponsored by the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, thanks to Tim Pittaway for making this happen. Also a big thanks to my precious mom in law Morag Gray for volunteering and typing up the first hand written transcripts
We trust the Lord to see this Xhosa tool touch many lives in the future. If anyone wants colour copies they can be ordered for our print price of R50 each or you can print them yourselves from the pdf soon to be uploaded on the website www.farming-gods-way.org/resources/



Sp
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Portfolio of Evidence Addendum 1:

Map of projects (Section A 1.1)

