



**Nelson Mandela  
Metropolitan  
University**

*for tomorrow*

Port Elizabeth & George

## **Centre for Academic Engagement and Collaboration**

**Engagement Information and Development Unit (EID)**

**Annual Report**

**2015**

**Dr Belinda du Plooy**

**Manager: Engagement Information and Development**

<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>

## **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



*Dr Belinda du Plooy, Manager:  
Engagement Information and  
Development (EID)*

### **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 and Mr Kempie van Rooyen (Psychology).

At its annual prestige award function in September 2015 NMMU again recognised the important contributions staff members make to Engagement Excellence. Awards were made to 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).

Awards were made on the basis of applications submitted by staff members and were based on Engagement work conducted during 2014. The annual Engagement Excellence Awards process is managed by the Centre for Academic Engagement and Collaboration (CAEC). 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 (Social Sciences and Humanities) - Prof Hennie van As (Faculty of Law) (left) with Prof Andrew Leitch, DVC: Research and Engagement**



**Engagement Excellence Award (STEM) - Prof Christo Fabricius on behalf of the Sustainability Research Unit (George Campus) (left) with Prof Andrew Leitch, DVC: Research and Engagement**



**Engagement Excellence Project Award (Social Sciences and Humanities) - Prof Frans Prinsloo and Ms Elize Naudé on behalf of the Department of Accounting (left) with Prof Denise Zinn, DVC: Teaching and Learning**



**Engagement Excellence Project Award (STEM) - Prof Johan van Niekerk on behalf of the Centre for Research in Information and Cyber Security (Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment and IT) (left) with Prof Andrew Leitch, DVC: Research and Engagement**



**Engagement Excellence Team Award - Ms Mary Duker and Mr David Jones (SoMAD Public Arts Partnerships, Faculty of Arts) (left) with Prof Andrew Leitch, DVC: Research and Engagement**



**Emerging Engagement Excellence Award - Dr Tim Pittaway (Department of Agriculture and Game Management) (left) with Prof Denise Zinn, DVC: Teaching and Learning**



### **3. Engagement Advancement Funding**

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

In 2015 NMMU for the second time awarded funding grants specifically aimed at supporting Engagement projects. The following projects were supported:

- NMMU Arts & Culture Drama Programme (Mr Michael Barry, Communication & Stakeholder Liaison)
- NMMU George Campus Open Day Sport Clinics (Mr Petrus Boukes, Madibaz Sport)
- Art Meets Science Meets Place (Prof Richard Cowling & Ms Mary Duker, Botany & Arts)
- Shell Eco Car Marathon (Mr Karl Du Preez, Mechanical Engineering)
- Polymer Science and Technology Engagement Outreach: Linking Industry and Learners (Mr Fanus Gerber, Chemistry)
- Lego Robotics (Mr Ronald Leppan, Information and Communication Technology)
- Heritage and Cultural Centre: NMMU George Campus (Mr Martin Loubser, Operations George Campus)
- Drive To Success Interactive Game (Dr Ann Lourens, Industrial Engineering)
- NMMU Racing: DibaE Electric Race Car (Mr Bryndan Roberts, Mechanical Engineering)
- Science to Schools Outreach (Dr Gletwyn Rubidge, Chemistry)
- Alternatives to Violence National Network (Prof Lyn Snodgrass Politics & Conflict Management)
- NMMU Baja Bug (Mr Trevor Stroud, Mechanical Engineering)
- Online Continuing Education Programme for Mental Health Professionals (Prof Louise Stroud, Psychology)
- Cyber Safety Calendar Competition (Prof Johan Van Niekerk, Information Technology)
- Pay-it-Forward Community Outreach Initiative (Dr Amanda Werner, Human Resources Management)

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 Second NMMU Engagement Colloquium

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

The second NMMU Engagement Colloquium was held on 4 November 2015 and served as a platform for showcasing Engagement Excellence and best practice at NMMU. It was also an opportunity to evaluate institutional Engagement priorities and goals and to identify specific needs related to Engagement training, funding, infrastructure and support. Seventeen staff members showcased their Engagement activities (including five previous Engagement Award winners). Presentations were recorded and will be available for viewing on the above mentioned EID 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.



**Ms Bianca Currie** (Sustainability Research Unit, George Campus), **Dr Belinda du Plooy** (CAEC, Colloquium Organiser), **Dr Gletwyn Rubidge** (Chemistry), **Prof Janine Adams** (Sustainability Research Unit), **Prof Johan van Niekerk** (Information Technology), **Mr Ronald Leppan** (Information Technology), **Prof Hennie van As** (Law), **Mr Trevor Stroud** (Mechanical Engineering), **Ms Isabel van Gend** (AMTC), **Prof Ernst Ferg** (UYilo, eNtsa), **Ms Nyaradzo Dhiwayo** (AEON), **Mr Barry Morkel** (AEON)



**NMMU 2<sup>ND</sup> ENGAGEMENT COLLOQUIUM –  
4 NOVEMBER 2015  
NORTH CAMPUS CONFERENCE CENTRE, 8AM - 3PM**

PROGRAMME

**Welcome : Aims and Objectives of the Colloquium**

*Prof Andrew Leitch, DVC: R&E*

**Engagement at NMMU: 10 Year Review**

*Prof George de Lange, Director: CAEC*

**BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDIES THEME 1: MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY**

*Prof Danie Hattingh, eNtsa, EBEIT - 2013 Engagement Excellence Award winner*

*Mr Trevor Stroud and Mr Bryndan Roberts, Mechanical Engineering, EBEIT - NMMU Racing: DibaE  
and Baja Bug*

*Prof Ernst Ferg, eNtsa, EBEIT – Uyilo e-Mobility Project*

**BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDIES THEME 2: CITIZENSHIP AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

*Prof Hennie van As, Centre for Law in Action, Faculty of Law – Centre for Law in Action projects & 2015  
Engagement Excellence Award winner*

*Prof Johan van Niekerk, Information Technology, EBEIT – Cyber Safety & 2015 Engagement  
Excellence Award winner*

*Dr Tim Pittaway, Agriculture and Game Ranch Management, Faculty of Science – Community Food  
Security Projects & 2015 Engagement Emerging Excellence Award winner*

**BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDIES THEME 3: ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND  
CONSERVATION**

*Ms Bianca Currie, George Campus, Sustainability Research Unit – SRU Ecosystem Stewardship for  
Sustainability & 2015 Engagement Excellence Award winner*

*Mr Barry Morkel and Ms Nyaradzo Dhliwayo, AEON, Faculty of Science – Karoo Shale Gas and AEON  
Earth Stewardship Projects*

*Prof Janine Adams, Sustainability Research Unit and Faculty of Science – Fresh Water Estuaries and  
Shallow Water Conservation Projects*

*Discussion, questions and comments*

**BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDIES THEME 4: STEM EDUCATION**

*Mr Ronald Leppan, Information Technology, EBEIT - LegoRobotics*

*Ms Isabel van Gend, AMTC, EBEIT – STEM in Action*

*Dr Gletwyn Rubidge, Chemistry department, Faculty of Science – Science to Schools Outreach Project*

*Discussion, questions and comments*

**BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDIES THEME 5: HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

*Ms Lisa Currin, UCLIN and Psychology Department, Faculty of Health Sciences – University Clinic  
(UCLIN) and Missionvale Bambanani Project*

*Prof Rosa du Randt, Department of Biokinetics, Faculty of Health Sciences – Biokinetics and Sport  
Science (BSSU) Projects*

*Ms Rhoda Goremuचेche – CAEC and Faculty of Health Sciences – Transnet Phelophepa Train  
Projects*



## 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 130 projects were loaded onto the system by the end of 2015. 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 Centre for Academic Engagement and Collaboration (CAEC) 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 Engagement/Engaged Scholarship Writing Retreat**

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

The Centre for Academic Engagement and Collaboration (CAEC) hosted NMMU's first Engagement-focused Writing for Publication Retreat in October 2015 and January 2016. This one-day conceptualisation session (October 2015) 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 begin to establish a dedicated Engagement-focused scholarship network and community of practice at NMMU.

### 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 Debbie Mattheus - Community Development Unit

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 - Centre for Academic Engagement and Collaboration

