



April 25, 2017

Professor Moeketsi Letseka  
Project Leader and Initiator  
Professor: Philosophy of Education  
Department of Educational Foundations  
College of Education  
UNISA  
**SOUTH AFRICA**

Dear Professor Letseka:

**RE: Commonwealth of Learning support of the proposed UNITWIN/UNESCO/UNISA Chair of Open Distance Learning**

The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) is pleased to support the proposed revival of the five-year UNITWIN/UNESCO Chair of Open Distance Learning (ODL) at the University of South Africa (UNISA). UNISA is not only a premier ODL institution in South Africa but is the oldest Open University in the world and a model of effective ODL delivery for other institutions in the Commonwealth. UNISA is a leader in research on ODL and Open Educational Resources. It is therefore appropriate that UNISA should be an institution of choice for providing an intellectual home for the UNITWIN/UNESCO/UNISA Chair.

COL has had a long and productive partnership with UNISA and this has often extended to providing capacity building and research opportunities to other universities in Africa. The focus of the Chair will be to frame a high level ODL research agenda that will guide policy and practice. This is the need of the hour in Africa as it strives to establish its leadership in providing quality education and training for its young people.

The revival of the UNITWIN/UNESCO/UNISA Chair of ODL is vital at this stage and will be a catalyst for promoting research on the continent. I have no hesitation in strongly supporting this proposal and wishing it every success.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Asha S. Kanwar  
President & Chief Executive Officer

cc: Dr. K. Balasubramanian, Vice President, COL  
Professor Romeela Mohee, Education Specialist – Higher Education, COL

ASK/RM/akb