UNISA WESTERN CAPE REGION

## invites you to the
## 11ᵗʰ Annual Academic Development Symposium

in partnership with

## ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT OPEN VIRTUAL HUB (ADOVH)

Rethinking Teaching, Learning and Student Support: Exploring Opportunities for Innovation and Shaping Future-Ready Graduates in the Age of AI and 5IR

## Date: 18-19 September 2025

## Preamble

Higher education is being reshaped by the rapid advances of the Fifth Industrial Revolution (5IR) and the transformative power of artificial intelligence. These developments offer exciting opportunities for innovation, but they also raise complex challenges around academic integrity, access to information, and the continued relevance of our qualifications in a world of constant flux.

Student support has undergone a profound shift, especially after the recent pandemic, having to navigate adopting new technologies while ensuring that the personal, human element of care and connection is not lost. This balancing act, often framed in terms of innovation and responsiveness, has more profound implications for how institutions value and support the professionals who work closest to students.

At the same time, meaningful change takes time and resources. As higher education institutions contend with constraints on both fronts, we are challenged to reflect not only on what must change, but on how we can make the most of what we already have to serve our students with purpose and adaptability.

This symposium provides a platform for stakeholders from across the higher education spectrum to reflect and exchange ideas on contributing to innovative strategies within higher education.

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We invite reflections, case studies, innovations, and provocations that speak to how we might respond—creatively, collaboratively, and sustainably.

We invite academic and support staff, student affairs professionals, curriculum designers, and higher education practitioners to contribute to this year's conversation in the context of a rapidly evolving technological environment.

Share your experiences, practices, and research on:

- Innovative teaching and learning practices in the age of AI and 5IR
- Student support and care in a digitally evolving environment
- Staff support and care in a digitally evolving environment
- Enhancing graduate attributes and employability
- Addressing academic integrity and access
- Collaborative solutions for skills shortages and institutional adaptability

For more information, contact ctntut@unisa.ac.za

# Programme Director: Dr D Chetty

Academic Development Open Virtual Hub (ADOVH)
University of South Africa (Unisa)

## Day 1

| Thursday, 18 September 2025 | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Time** | **Topic / Item** | **Presenter / Facilitator** |
| 08h00-08h30 | Arrival and Registration | |
| 08h30-08h45 | Welcome | **Ms L Joubert**<br>Deputy Registrar<br>Student Administration and Systems Integration<br>Unisa |
| 08h45-09h00 | Opening Address | **Prof M Sepota,**<br>Acting Registrar<br>Unisa |
| 09h00-09h45 | Keynote Address 1<br>The impact of AI and 5IR on education | **Dr AC Tshivhase**<br>Acting Vice Principal, Teaching, Learning, Community Engagement and Student Support<br>Unisa |
| 09h45-10h30 | Keynote Address 2<br>Inclusive education in technology | **Mr J Benjamin**<br>Chief Director for Curriculum Management and Teacher Development<br>Western Cape Education Department |
| 10h30-11h00 | Keynote Address 3 | **Prof D Gachago**<br>CILT - Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching<br>University of Cape Town |
| 11h00- 11h15 | **Tea** | |

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# Programme

| Parallel Sessions | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Venue: B01** | **Venue: B02** | **Venue: B1-41** | **Staff Research Hub** |
| **Innovative teaching and learning practices in the age of AI and 5IR.** | **Student support and care in a digitally evolving environment.** | **Staff support and care in a digitally evolving environment.** | **Enhancing graduate attributes and employability.** |
| **11h15 - 11h45** | | | |
| Perception and challenges of computer-based examination among library and information science students in Federal Polytechnic Ede, Nigeria.<br><br>***Dr UW Madu*** | The reimagined, smart and technologically enhanced TVET<br><br>***Ms J Esau*** | Impact of student evaluations on lecturers' mental wellbeing & practice in private Higher Education.<br><br>***Dr C Edson-Ashley*** | Embedding computational thinking through project-based learning in civil engineering: A case study on seismic analysis of water tanks.<br><br>***Dr MS Pourbehi*** |
| **11h50 - 12h20** | | | |
| The Effectiveness of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Fifth Industrial Revolution (5IR) in Education: Innovative Teaching and Learning Best Practices.<br><br>***Mr MC Marakalala*** | Navigating the digital divide: students' perceptions and preparedness for online learning.<br><br>***Dr M Thobejane<br>Dr E Makwakwa*** | The psychological impact of modern transformations in higher education: Academic well-being, stressors and coping strategies.<br><br>***Ms B Wright*** | The 'Relevance' Paradox: A critical reflection on a Coding and Robotics programme in socially and economically disadvantaged communities in the Southern Cape.<br><br>***Ms A Blacker*** |
| **12h25 - 12h55** | | | |
| Reimagining Life Sciences Education with AI Utilisation in Initial Teacher Education<br><br>***Dr X Khalo*** | Reimagining Postgraduate Supervision and Student Wellness: Integrating Human, More-than-Human, and AI-Informed Approaches for Future-Ready Graduates<br><br>***Prof JE Maritz*** | The Role of the UNISA Law Clinic's Street Law Programme in Empowering Communities through student-led legal education<br><br>***Mr M Vena<br>Mr R Mathebula*** | Enhancing graduate attributes and employability<br><br>***Mr M Sultan Beg<br>Mr MD Tjikana*** |
| 13h00-13h30 | **Plenary** | **Dr Denzil Chetty** | |
| 13h30-13h45 | **Closing remarks and word of thanks** | **Mr M Nkgoang**<br>Regional Director<br>Unisa Western Cape Region | |
| 13h45 | **Lunch and Networking** | | |

# Programme

## Programme Director: Dr D Chetty
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University of South Africa
# Day 2

| Friday, 19 September 2025 | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Time** | **Topic / Item** | **Presenter / Facilitator** |
| 08h00-08h15 | Arrival and Registration | |
| 08h15-08h30 | Welcome and Opening Remarks | **Mr M Nkgoang**<br>Regional Director<br>Unisa Western Cape Region |
| 08h30-08h45 | Opening Address | **Dr P Makgato-Khunou**<br>Director<br>Department of Instructional Support and Services<br>Unisa |
| 08h45-09h30 | TVET perspective | **Dr M Muswaba**<br>Chief Executive Officer<br>College of Cape Town<br>TVET College |
| 09h30-10h15 | Keynote Address 1<br>(online) | **Prof J Batchelor**<br>Vice Dean: Teaching and Learning University of Johannesburg |
| 10h15-11h00 | **Panel Discussion-USAf – DELT**<br>• Ms. E Booi (University of the Western Cape)<br>• Prof A Verhoef (Northwest University)<br>• Dr N Pallitt  (Rhodes University)<br>• Dr G Castillion (University of Johannesburg)<br>• Dr H Adendorff (Stellenbosch University) | |
| 11h00-11h15 | **Tea** | |
| **Workshop 1** | | |
| 11h15-12h00 | Masterclass on Researching with Elicit AI | **Dr D Chetty**<br>Advancing African Digital Humanities Ideation Hub (AADHiH)<br>Unisa |
| **Workshop 2** | | |
| 12h00-12h45 | Curricularising Relational Humanness for Innovative Teaching & Learning in the Age of AI and the 5IR | **Dr S Jansen**<br>Deputy Director<br>Unisa Western Cape Region |
| 12h45-13h00 | **Word of thanks** | **Dr Z Khanyile**<br>Senior Counsellor<br>Unisa Western Cape Region |
| 13h00 - 14h00 | **Lunch and Networking** | |

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