



Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture organises Farmers Day as a link between local farmers, learners and students

The University's Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture recently held Farmers Day. This event took place outside the University's Research Conference Centre and was attended by local farmers, secondary school learners, University staff members and students.



In his Keynote Address, Group Executive: Research and Development at Water Research Commission, Prof Stanley Liphadzi who is also an Adjunct Professor at UNIVEN, spoke about informed research institutions. He said these institutions should be centres for new products. Universities should be able to produce new information and products of research. Institutions like UNIVEN should teach and train students and societies about research findings. They should be able to educate the surrounding communities about new developments and find solutions to their problems. He mentioned that research should be able to address problems that the country or the world is facing.

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Prof Liphadzi continued to say that agriculture is growing and people are getting interested in it. "The competition is getting tougher. There are new entrants who are trying to make sure that they come up with products that no one can compete with them. We need to change the curriculum and the scholarship of teaching." He concluded his talk by mentioning that he is glad to hear that UNIVEN has research professors, this shows that UNIVEN takes this business of teaching and research serious.



Executive Dean of the Faculty of Science Engineering and Agriculture, Prof Ntebogeng Mokgalaka said the faculty always make sure that it aligns itself for relevance and impact. "We always strive to empower our students with knowledge and skills to create employment and to employ others. Our graduates are well rounded. They are locally relevant and internationally competitive because they are well trained even on matters of Entrepreneurship." She said Agriculture is very important because it secures the food that we eat on a daily basis. She concluded by stating that farmers day is a relevant platform for all stakeholders to engage and

find solutions to the challenges as well as to engage on how we can trade amongst ourselves. The University of Venda strives to create a platform for all stakeholders and to equip farmers to be locally relevant and globally competitive.



Prof Jude Odhiambo said one of the objectives is to strengthen the University's relationships with local stakeholders. He said UNIVEN trains its students to be future farmers with the aim of creating more employers. "It is important for farmers to be aware about the climate change and how it will affect them. Farmers day is indeed a perfect opportunity for information exchange for farmers on how to trade amongst themselves. This day is also an opportunity for students to interact with well-established farmers to learn a lot from them. The University strives to promote this kind of events which will ensure that there is food security in the country and globally.



Tractors on display for exhibition purposes

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Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture organises Farmers Day as a link between local farmers, learners and students continued...



A group photo of organisers and keynote speaker Prof Stanley Liphadzi (middle)



Prof Afsatou Traore introducing the guest speaker



Prof Joseph Baloyi (Interim Head of Department: Animal Science) introducing exhibitors



Exhibitors were given an opportunity to present their products



140 secondary schools with more than 15 000 learners from Vhembe District benefited during the 2022 UNIVEN-Vhembe Phase 2 Careers Exhibition

The University of Venda and Careers Exhibition and Information Association (CEIA) in Partnership with the Vhembe District, Department of Basic Education recently held the 2022 Careers Exhibition which took place from 03 - 06 May 2022 at the University of Venda Auditorium. The 2022 exhibition coincides with the University's 40th Anniversary.

After two years of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic and restriction orders, the University of Venda hosted this prestigious and important event that aims at making a difference in the lives of learners.

140 secondary schools with more than 15000 learners from Vhembe District as well as over 27 institutions of higher learning and government departments attended this exhibition.

The exhibition is aimed at exposing learners from various schools to the career choices that they are interested in and identify the suitable institution that best suits their career aspirations. The schools were from the Vhembe district in 4 circuit clusters, Malamulele, Mutale-Sibasa, Thohoyandou and Tshinane.



Some of the learners who benefitted from the careers exhibition



Ravhanga Zwivhuya, a grade 12 pupil from Azwifarwi Secondary School attended the careers exhibition to get more information regarding her career choices. She said she wants to be a nurse or follow a career in teaching. Her preferred institution of learning is UNIVEN. She mentioned that she wishes to enrol at UNIVEN because according to her this will assist her to serve the surrounding communities, especially during practicals.



Rambuda Gundo is a Grade 12 Tshiwangamatembele Secondary School learner. He said he wants to be a Lawyer. His second option is teaching because he currently teaches grade 8 learners at his school during free periods.



Learners getting information during careers exhibition at the University Auditorium

Council on Higher Education (CHE) conducts institutional audit site visit at UNIVEN

Many months of hard work in preparing for the Council on Higher Education (CHE) institutional audit site visit, culminated in the audit from 23 - 26 May 2022. The University of Venda led by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni welcomed the team, led by the Chairperson of the audit panel, Prof Sandile Songca on campus.

"We are well-prepared for the audit and I believe the information we have presented to the audit team reflects well on the great strides that UNIVEN is making to become a University leading in engaged scholarship and with our mission to produce graduates that are locally relevant and globally competitive," says the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni.

The Council on Higher Education (CHE) audit panellists interviewed UNIVEN various

stakeholders on Quality Assurance (QA) related matters for the Higher Education (HE) landscape.

With regard to viewing the University's infrastructure, the panel visited New Student Administration, Lecture Halls, Library, D-Block, New Education building, Laboratories, Student Residences, Main Administration building, Vuwani Science Resource Centre as well as Barrota UIGC Farm.

The institutional audit outcomes are expected approximately by October / November 2022 and will be followed by improvement plans (one year following the 18 months).

The Director Institutional Planning and Quality Assurance, Dr Sannah Patience Mativandla thanked all the people who participated in the audit preparations and interviews.



Front row L-R: Dr Remy Nnadozie, Dr Nothemba Mrweiyana, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni and Prof Sandile Songca (Chairperson of the audit panel). Back row L-R: Prof Jan Crafford, Dr Bongwiwe Hobololo, Dr Sannah Mativandla and Dr Robert Martin

UNIVEN strengthens its relationship with the media and showcase its successes that happened in the past 40 years of existence

As part of the University of Venda (UNIVEN)'s 40th anniversary celebrations, the University, in partnership with the Limpopo Provincial Government and SABC Limpopo Combo held a Media Engagement Session and Campus Tour to showcase the successes of the University over the past four decades. This Media Engagement Session took place at the University's Research Conference Centre and attendees later visited the University's old and new buildings. The University Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni led the participants to the room that used to be occupied by the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Hon Ronald Lamola. The objective of this media engagement Session was to make attendees understand how the University has evolved over the past 40 years (since 1982).



Attendees and participants of the Media Engagement Session



UNIVEN Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni said UNIVEN is delighted to celebrate these milestones and successful achievements. He highlighted some of the University achievements of the past 40 years where he indicated that in the past Seven (07) years, UNIVEN has consistently been obtaining clean audits.

He said UNIVEN has produced alumni who are occupying strategic positions in both private and public institutions. Amongst other achievements, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni highlighted that the University has changed its structure from Eight (08) Schools to Four (04) Faculties.

"In the past years, the University has seen exponential growth in research. We are making good strides and continue to provide best education and producing relevant graduates that are able to compete everywhere."

He concluded his talk by highlighting the University's accreditation by SAICA. He also spoke about the launch of the Law School at UNIVEN.

"In the past years, the University has seen exponential growth in research. We are making good strides and continue to provide best education and producing relevant graduates that are able to compete everywhere."



Chief Director: Provincial Communication Services, Mr Nдавhe Ramakuela said in the past 40 years, the relationship between UNIVEN and Limpopo Provincial Government has been growing stronger because both the University and the government serve similar communities. He said UNIVEN has produced many leaders that are making positive impact countrywide and even in the international arena.

Mr Ramakuela further indicated that UNIVEN has in the past 40 years been helping the government with research to justify the work that the government has been doing for its people. He continued to mention that the government together with UNIVEN are partnering to bring development in the Limpopo Province. He said most employees in the Limpopo Provincial Government are products of this University. "Limpopo Provincial Government is proud because it did not have to travel for many kilometres to get skills that are currently assisting the government to serve its people." He congratulated UNIVEN for this milestone and achievements throughout these years.



When deliberating on the Reporting of Accurate Information item, SABC Limpopo Combo Business Manager, Mr Madikana Matjila applauded the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni and the University Council for appointing the first female Chancellor in the history of the University. He said this institution is a trend setter and has been strategically positioned because it is situated at the gateway to other African countries.

Mr Matjila invited UNIVEN to tell its own stories to the public through radio and television channels. He further said the University should not be media shy, the University needs to tell its stories but to do that, they need to be friends of the media.



When expressing the University's gratitude, the University Registrar, Adv Edward Lambani appreciated the support from the media and all stakeholders for gracing the University with their presence. He also said UNIVEN cares about its students hence the University is student centred.

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Dr Bernard Nthambeleni with Mr Matjila, Mr Ramakuela, Dr Dzaga and UNIVEN student (Mr Ramaliba) in his room that was occupied by Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Hon. Ronald Lamola when he was still a student at UNIVEN.

UNIVEN participates in the Thohoyandou Clean-up and Awareness Campaign organised by the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve

One of the main objectives of the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve (VBR) is to work with various partners including the University of Venda (UNIVEN) to conserve and protect the environment. VBR further believes that it is through the partnerships that it can make a meaningful impact in the surrounding communities. It is for these reasons that, VBR, together with other waste industry organisations from around Thohoyandou, including UNIVEN student organisations, Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environmental and Tourism and Thulamela Municipality considered it necessary to organise Thohoyandou Clean-up and Awareness Campaign. Members of these organisations recently assembled at Thohoyandou Town Hall to clean up and raise awareness around Thohoyandou CBD.

The campaign was divided into two stages namely, the actual clean up around the Thohoyandou CBD (waste hotspots) and Exhibitions by companies, organisations and individuals operating in the waste industry. The exhibition took place at the Thohoyandou Botanical Garden.

The idea was not only to talk about recycling as good for the environment but to also showcase the entrepreneurial side and encourage stakeholders to venture into the waste management industry.



Programme Coordinator at Vhembe Biosphere Reserve, Man and Biosphere, Mr Tonderai Makoni said the main aim of this campaign was to raise awareness about the importance of recycling and waste management in the surrounding communities. "With high unemployment in the country there is need to showcase to people that the waste management industry is full of opportunities." He also went on to appreciate all the different partners who supported the clean-up campaign.

NYDA was also available as part of exhibitors on matters of how to access funds for businesses and strategies to sustain an already existing business.



Some of the clean-up and awareness campaign participants



Some of the exhibitors showcasing their products



Some of the participants cleaning up the streets of Thohoyandou



The actual clean up around the Thohoyandou CBD (waste hotspots)



Participants listening to one of the exhibitors



Some of the participants posing with waste material collected from Thohoyandou town posing for a photo outside the Thohoyandou Botanical Garden

55 UNIVEN students participate in the UNIVEN-EDHE Entrepreneurship Intersvarsity internal competition

On Monday, 09 May 2022 entrepreneurial students at the University of Venda (UNIVEN) held internal competition to select student-preneurs who will represent UNIVEN during the regional competitions in August.

55 student-preneurs entered the competition. Out of the 55 entries 19 students were accepted to participate in the internal competitions. From the 19 accepted, 12 student entrepreneurs presented their ideas and businesses. The presentations were hybrid in nature where participants were given the opportunity to either present physically or virtually.

Winners who participated virtually were Mutshidzi Fonzani and Glen Maimela.

From the presenters, 6 winners were selected for the 4 categories.

The winners are as follows:

- Category 1: Business idea 2
- Category 2: Existing business tech 1
- Category 3: Existing business social 1
- Category 4: Existing business general 2

Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE) is a programme which is people-focused with the goal to develop the entrepreneurial capacity of students, academics, and institutional leaders. The purpose of the EDHE Entrepreneurship Intersvarsity is to identify the top student entrepreneurs at the South African institutions of higher education, recognise and showcase their businesses, and invite investment into this cohort of student businesses.



Dr Nkondo (left) UNIVEN EDHE Co-ordinator, congratulating winners (Arnold Masutha, Tharollo Makhubela, Shudufhadzo Muditambi and Surprise Munyai)



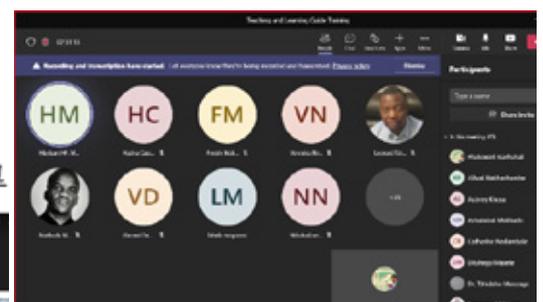
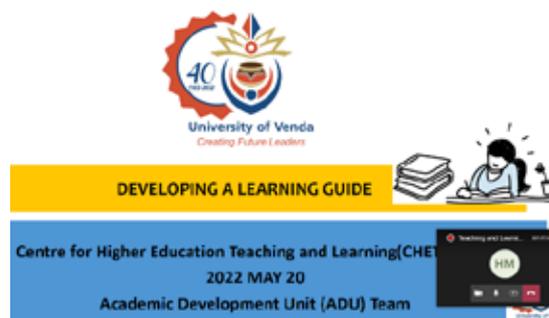
Internal round judges from L-R: Mr Thabo Dikgale, Mr Stan Zindiye and Ms Makole Makgoro



Academic Development Unit held a workshop for the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education academic staff on how to develop a Learning Guide

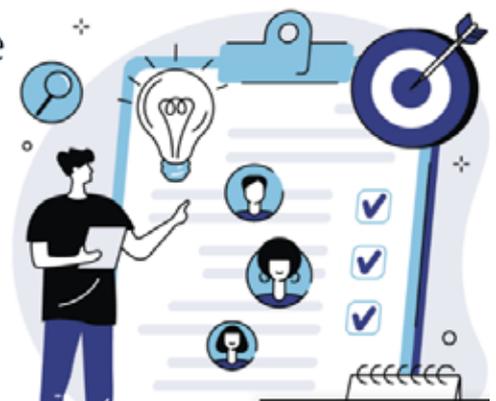
On Friday, 20 May 2022, the University's Academic Development Unit (ADU) held an engagement workshop with academic staff members from the Faculty of Humanities, Social Studies and Education. More than forty (40) academic staff members attended the workshop in which key components of a learning guide were discussed. Dr Ravhuhali explained that in responding to and drawing from UNIVEN's Strategic Thrust- student centeredness, the need for a well-designed Learning Guide cannot be overemphasised. This is mainly because the focus on teaching is to ensure that students learn successfully, hence a learning guide is supposed to guide and lead them to their academic success, epistemologically.

Academic staff members were encouraged to adopt the shared Learning Guide and use it as it is or customise it accordingly. The Learning Guide workshop is one of the series of workshops that are planned by the Academic Development Unit to be held during 2022. Other faculties are therefore encouraged to contact the ADU unit when they need assistance regarding the development of a learning guide and many other academic related support matters. The following details can be used to contact ADU: Dr Fhatuwani Ravhuhali on 8116 Email address fhatuwani.ravhuhali@univen.ac.za or Mrs H.F. Mboweni-Pataka on 8485 hlayisani.mboweni@univen.ac.za



Developing our learning guide

- We believe that a learning guide can effectively guide our teaching as teachers, and learning for our students
- The shared template is not prescriptive but more suggestive, and therefore, we believe it can be customized accordingly (Faculty, Departments and Discipline)



Association of Black Accountants of Southern Africa Executive Committee members of the UNIVEN students chapter attended an induction session held at UL

Association of Black Accountants of Southern Africa (ABASA) Limpopo education committee recently conducted an induction session for both executive members of the Universities of Venda (UNIVEN) and Limpopo (UL) ABASA students' chapters. This induction session took place at UL. The Association is established to promote the professional interests of persons engaged in the accounting profession whose commitment and dedication is to the pursuit of professional and academic excellence for the benefit, needs, aspirations and advancement of blacks in the accounting profession.



ABASA UNIVEN Student Chapter Chairperson, Ms Amparisaho Makwarela

ABASA UNIVEN Student Chapter executives learnt about the importance of serving for the betterment of accounting students and not for fame or to be known. They also learned that it is important to first examine how best their initiatives could assist or champion the needs of the students before they are implemented. Furthermore, they noted that it is important to have a healthy relationship with the University management and the SRC, to always be informed on the University challenges and developments. This will help them come up with simple and better solutions to students' challenges, especially the ones under the Department of Accountancy.

ABASA UNIVEN Student Chapter executives noted that it is important to have a healthy relationship with the University management and the SRC, to always be informed on the University challenges and developments.



ABASA UNIVEN Student Chapter Advisory Board Member, Ms Elelwani Mudau stressed on the importance of reading through the Student Chapter Constitution. "I think the reason we do not read the constitution is that we do not know its importance in assisting us serve. "Members should read the constitution to understand how best they can serve the students and achieve the objectives of ABASA and the institutions", She said.



ABASA UL Student Chapter Chairperson, Mr Mulondo Unarine Mulondo, welcomed the student leaders from the ABASA UNIVEN and UL student chapter, guests from ABASA Limpopo, guests from ABASA National and the Standard Bank representatives. He highlighted that the purpose of the induction was to assist the student leaders to understand why they have been elected to lead and how they should work together. "This induction should also assist us to know how best we can work together as UL and UNIVEN to achieve the objectives of our institutions", he said.



L-R: (front row) Ms Neshehe M – Academic Officer, Ms Mudau N – Careers and Professional Development, Ms Makwarela A – Deputy Secretary, Ms Tangananalo S – Secretary, Ms Manyaga N – Events Manager and Ms Makwarela A – Chairperson.
R-L: (back row) Ms Mudau E – Advisory Board, Mr Munyai VH – Public Relations, Mr Lekgwara J – Academic Officer, Mr Nevhusenga R – Advisory Board



ABASA National Leadership Programme Committee Chairperson, Mr Thabo Godfrey Mongatane CA(SA), explained that ABASA is not a political party but a civic organisation that aims at addressing the challenges faced by black accountants and assisting them reach greater heights. He also explained to the executive members, the importance of reflecting on their expectations and tracking their progress and commitment in achieving the goals and objectives of ABASA as well as the institutions. He also encouraged the members to consider both BCom Accounting Science and BCom Accounting general students each time they make decisions and implement measures. He further stressed that the members should always remember that they are representing ABASA and their universities, not individuals. "You must always remember that you are representing the organisation, serving the students and not your personal interests", he told the members.



ABASA UNIVEN AND UL listening to the speakers during the induction

Co-designing and Implementing Branded Short Learning Programmes with Ecosystem Partners to Demystify Entrepreneurship

Increasingly, the need for equipping University staff, students and members of the society in general with entrepreneurial skills as a strategy for offering more relevant curricula, taking advantage of business opportunities, creating employment and producing development-oriented leaders is gaining momentum. Partly, this is the reason why the University of Venda (UNIVEN) saw it fit to adopt entrepreneurship as one of the four key thrusts of its strategic plan, 2021-2025. To enhance the chances of achieving an entrepreneurial culture and producing a critical mass of competent change agents who can help realize the objectives articulated above, it is necessary to mount relevant capacity enhancement programmes.

The UNIVEN Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor Corporate Services recently hosted a workshop at The Ranch Hotel near Polokwane. Nineteen (19) people participated in the workshop. They comprised senior and junior academic staff, postgraduate students pursuing Master and Doctoral degree programmes, and representatives of grassroots communities drawn from some Communal Property Associations and Traditional Authorities in Vhembe District.

Welcoming the participants and opening the workshop, Dr Robert Martin (DVC Corporate Services) tendered the following eloquent explanation of what entrepreneurship entails.

"The purpose of this workshop is to assist us colleagues to co-develop our own UNIVEN-branded entrepreneurship short learning programmes. This is important because we must try to demystify entrepreneurship given that most of us invariably get stuck with the common understanding that entrepreneurship is about only starting and operating businesses. Whilst this is its primary focus, we must not ignore the fact that individuals can be entrepreneurs in their respective workplaces. Thus, our starting point should be to ensure that we build proper entrepreneurial orientation or entrepreneurial thinking in individuals and groups of people. This is important because the people concerned become better equipped to face and deal with finding solutions in a creative manner to still meet our objectives within an environment of limited resources and diverse challenges. In brief, our focus is to ensure that we demystify entrepreneurship thereby enabling staff, students and external stakeholders we work with to become solution seekers. By so doing, we make it possible to fast track UNIVEN's transformation and become an Entrepreneurial University."



Dr Robert Martin, DVC Corporate Services participating in the workshop on entrepreneurship programmes



Representatives of University students, academic staff and grassroots communities who participated in the workshop to develop entrepreneurship short learning programmes

During the highly interactive workshop, seven short learning programmes were co-developed:

- Entrepreneurship for children in grades R-12;
- Women in entrepreneurship;
- Entrepreneurship for youth;
- Entrepreneurship for academics;
- Entrepreneurship for grassroots development;
- Social entrepreneurship, and
- Awareness campaigns for active involvement in entrepreneurial work.

The programmes will be finalised, and quality assured through the UNIVEN Centre for Continuing Education, which is the short learning programme unit of the UNIVEN Innovative Growth Company (UIGC).

Throughout the workshop, the participants highlighted the need for creating awareness of the entrepreneurial programmes to enable potential learners or trainees to make informed decisions. Thus, a team of Entrepreneurship Student Ambassadors (Mr Faranani Mabada: President of ENACTUS UNIVEN, Ms Mulalo Maumela: Master of Commerce student, and Mr Ranganai Chidembo: PhD in Rural Development candidate) were tasked to develop an action plan for use in enhancing entrepreneurship awareness and presence on the UNIVEN campus and beyond. The team was concerned with the poor participation of students and unemployed youth in communities in entrepreneurial activities. To address this challenge, Entrepreneurship Ambassadors will be recruited and mentored within on-going university programmes such as the Student Training for Entrepreneurship Promotion (STEP), Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE), Intersivity Competitions, ENACTUS UNIVEN and Entrepreneurship week. Furthermore, there are plans to implement a robust, hybrid digital-physical communication and marketing strategy that includes door to door engagements, radio presentations, coemptions, Short Messaging Systems, Emails, Twitter, LinkedIn, Tik Tok, Instagram and Facebook, among others.



Dr Livhuwani G. Nkondo (Extreme right and in blue, Senior Lecturer in Business Management, UNIVEN) co-developing with from left: Mr Ranganai Chidembo, Ms Mulalo Maumela and Ms Zwivhuya Tshivhase, a plan to implement a robust, hybrid digital-physical communication and marketing short learning programmes



Ms Masindi Ramabulana (Left) and Ms Zwivhuya Tshivhase participating in the entrepreneurship short learning programmes workshops as representatives of external stakeholders

An entrepreneurship-focused Help Desk with an Economic Activation Office will be established. Meanwhile, for some opportunities that might be of interest to you, please check this out! <https://entrepreneur.wfglobal.org/ignite-africa/>

It is worth highlighting that the presence of individuals drawn from some Traditional Authorities and Communal Property Associations helped clean the perspectives of the university campus

community representatives. These ecosystem partner representatives were Ms Masindi Ramabulana (who owns Singo Enterprise and other enterprises in the tourism and hospitality industry), Mr Thilivhali Bethuel Ravele (Secretary of the Ravele Community Property Association (CPA) who shared insightful broader CPA perspectives) and Ms Zwivhuya Tshivhase (a youth owning the Ndinne Events catering company).

Co-designing and Implementing Branded Short Learning Programmes with Ecosystem Partners to Demystify Entrepreneurship continued...



In spectacles and a pink jacket is Ms Tsakani Nyoni (Ms Tsakani Nyoni: Master of Arts in African Studies student) leading formulation of a short learning programme on social entrepreneurship: it spells out the importance of learning about sustainable social enterprises, and impact measurement. Her Experiences as a Junior Associate at University Impact proved to be handy and enriched the workshop deliberations.



Dr Hlanganipai Ngirande, Dr Jethro Zuwarimwe and Mr Tendai Gondo jointly packaging an Entrepreneurship for Academics short learning programme

Based on the highly illuminating and sobering inputs that ecosystem partners or external stakeholders made, there was an overwhelming view among participants that the workshop was unique, groundbreaking and was facilitated in a creative way that should inform other UNIVEN processes, in line with what is expected actualising the key elements of the student-centredness and engaged scholarship thrust of the UNIVEN strategic plan, 2021-2025. Some of the key lessons the participants learnt during the workshop were:

1. It proved to be an effective co-learning opportunity in which the UNIVEN academics and Senior Managers in particular listened and engaged the target groups when developing learning materials;
2. There is need to demystify entrepreneurship, ensuring that the general view that it mainly deals with business development is not the only element that lies at its heart;
3. Design thinking and growth mindset should be infused into co-learning about entrepreneurship;
4. It is crucial to mobilise students and community members who have passion for local economic development, entrepreneurship and/or a desire to start their own business first as learners in the short learning programmes that were developed. Thus, the team committed to mobilise students owning businesses, encompassing sole proprietorship, partnership or venturing into a public or private company to participate.



Ms Shumani Nembudani (Chartered Accountant, Senior Lecturer and founder of Dream in Colour Foundation: DCF) sharing a programme for grades R-12 that she developed. It highlights the significance and need for introducing entrepreneurship during early grades to complement the existing curricula for grades 8-12



Socio-next organisation collaborates with UNIVEN to train 38 Aspiring Rural Youth Entrepreneurs at Vele Community Resource Centre in Gogogo village



The University of Venda (UNIVEN)'s Community Engagement Directorate partnered with Socionext and Vele Community Resource Centre to train 38 (32+6 UNIVEN students) aspiring young entrepreneurs from three rural communities (Gogogo, Mavhode and Fefe). Amongst The workshop was co-sponsored by Socio-next, The Entrepreneurship Development Trust (EDT) and Investec. The training activities included coming up with a business idea, writing a winning business pitch, and testing the business ideas.

To inspire the trainees to have confidence in entrepreneurship, Mr Iqbal alluded that, entrepreneurs should not be afraid to make mistakes and should always have a sense of urgency. He told the participants that, in business, if you snooze you lose, that was his slogan for the week. He further advised them that, it is important for one to raise

their voices and ideas out rather than for them to die inside. Mr Iqbal is skilled in entrepreneurship training focusing on 'The Life Cycle' which encompasses the interconnectedness of problems, solutions, assumptions, test, feedback, and improve.

The business ideas of the trainees were: Information Technology (IT) Training business; Local Newspaper; Processing Macadamia Oil; Local Laundry Business; Processing Chicken Feed, and Local Hair Salon.

On the fifth day, each group presented their business ideas to the invited community stakeholders and sponsors.

Community Engagement Directorate thanked Vele Community Resource Centre; Families who offered their homes for UNIVEN students, Khakhu and Rammbuda Royal Councils and Royal leaders; Royal leaders Vhamusanda vha Gogogo, Mavhode and Fefe; Socio next; EDT and Investec.



Pictures above: participants divided into groups to come up with ideas

Socio-next organisation collaborates with UNIVEN to train 38 Aspiring Rural Youth Entrepreneurs at Vele Community Resource Centre in Gogogo village continued...



Pictures above: group presentations and ideas tested respectively

Adv Mojanku Gumbi participates in the Africa Travel Indaba 2022

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) Chancellor, Adv Mojanku Gumbi who is the Interim Chairperson of South African Tourism Board recently participated in Africa's Travel Indaba 2022. The 2022 Travel Indaba took place at the Durban International Convention Centre and was organised by Tourism KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) and its partners. Africa's Travel Indaba is a platform for all tourism players and exhibitors to showcase their best tourism products and offerings to the world. It is a platform that gives small enterprises an opportunity to showcase their tourism offerings to the world.

The Interim Chairperson of the Board, Adv. Gumbi congratulated Tourism KZN for hosting an indaba of that calibre which was attended by Eighteen (18) African countries, 655 exhibitors, 965 buyers and 377 members of the media. She expressed that the Tourism KZN has demonstrated to the world that the KZN province was ready to host this Africa's Travel Indaba despite the challenges faced in the past two years due to COVID-19 Pandemic.

The projections for the 2022 Africa's Travel Indaba were 3700 visitors, a direct spent of R29 million and R72.5 million contribution to Durban's GDP with 145 jobs created.



Director Marketing, Branding & Communication visits local community radio stations

Strategic Objective 3 (SO3) of the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan of the University of Venda (UNIVEN) strives to strengthen engagement of students, staff, and community stakeholders. It is for this reason that the Director Marketing, Branding and Communication, Dr Takalani Dzaga, together with UNIVEN FM Station Manager and some staff members in the Department of Marketing, Branding and Communication recently visited Nzhelele FM and Makhado FM to engage on the ways in which community radio stations could assist each other, especially sharing of information (news content) amongst each other. This media engagement session was also aimed at discussing possible ways in which community radio stations could improve strategies to inform, educate and entertain their surrounding communities, including building the University image.

Dr Dzaga said the aim of the visit is to engage with community radio stations in Vhembe District as part of celebrating the University's 40 years of existence. He said there is a need for community radio stations to supplement each other because these community radio stations serve similar communities, therefore they should not see each other as competitors but radio stations that are working towards achieving a common goal. Dr Dzaga gave an example of UNIVEN FM that has been in existence for the past 24 years and this makes UNIVEN

FM the most senior community radio station in Vhembe District. However, this does not mean that UNIVEN FM knows better than other community radio stations. "They need to teach and learn from each other and share some of the experiences and challenges because this will assist most if not all these community radio stations to survive and reach their targeted goals."

Nzhelele FM Station Manager, Mr Khathutshelo Ramugondo who is also the founder of this radio station (third from left) said those who have been in this field have more knowledge about radio broadcasting, and as such they should be sharing the skills of surviving in radio broadcasting industry. He indicated that Nzhelele FM has produced a lot of radio presenters who are currently making impact at many radio stations countrywide. Nzhelele community Radio station was established 6 years ago.

Makhado FM Station Manager, Mr Makonde Mbedzi suggested that there should be a day dedicated to community radio stations when these community radio stations around Vhembe District will be broadcasting their current affairs show together simultaneously, especially during the University's 40 years celebration event. He indicated that Makhado FM covers the radius of 38 wards and within these wards there are three community radio stations serving these communities. Makhado FM broadcasts in English, Tshivenda, Sepedi, and Xitsonga.



Dr Dzaga (fourth from left), Mr Ramugondo (third from left) and Ms Tshilidzi Shirinda (far right) with DJ Big Tree (seated) and Mr Khumbuzo Morobi (far left) in the studio during 'finding hope show' - broadcast between 09:00 and 12:00 midday



Dr Dzaga (left) and Mr Makonde Mbedzi (right) with the midday presenter (Middle) in one of Makhado FM studios



Makhado FM staff members posing for a group photo with some of UNIVEN staff members from the Department of Marketing, Branding and Communication

Stop The Spot Youth Organisation organises a well-attended Financial Education Summit



On Thursday, 05 May 2022, about 250 University of Venda (UNIVEN) students gathered at the University's Sports Hall to attend a Financial Education Summit. The summit was organised by Stop the Spot Youth Organisation in collaboration with PM Skills House and Black Management Forum Students Chapter with the aim to equip students with banking tips, paying off accounts, choosing the right bank, choosing affordable creditors and other financial tips.

Erica Mukwevho, a trainer from PM Skills House presented on financial education wherein she equipped students with a lot of knowledge on how to save and make more money. She also gave a few tips on how students could stay out of debts. Erica based her presentation on a particular case study. She said she did this to make things practical and to make sure that students understood what she was talking about. "Start that

small business. Even if it means selling Mashonza," she said. She further advised students to make sure that their budgeting skills are SMART. "If you want to live a life which is free from pressure, be yourself", "CASH IS BOSS", these were her last words before she concluded the presentation.

A vote of thanks on behalf of Stophespot Organisation and BMFsc was delivered by Ms Umpha Sadiki. Ms Sadiki articulated that financial literacy is key to financial health. She further added that the summit taught UNIVEN students to be wise when it comes to money regardless of how much they are getting monthly from different sponsors. "From now on we will ensure that we prioritise our spending where it is needed most and start mini businesses that will generate us little income instead of spending our little money on clothing and alcohol," said Umpha.



L-R: Umpha Sadiki, Stopthespot Charity Coordinator and Ms Khensani Mathebula (facilitator)

"If you want to live a life which is free from pressure, be yourself"



250 students were awarded certificates of participation by PM Skills

The University's Department of Urban and Regional Planning hosts the South Africa-Sweden University Forum- URP SASUF Programme Workshop

The Directorate of International Relations and Partnerships (IRP) contributed to the Faculty of Science Engineering and Agriculture's Department of Urban and Regional Planning South Africa-Sweden University Forum- URP SASUF Programme workshop recently. The workshop took place at the University's Research Conference Centre. The event was hosted by the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture's Department of Urban and Regional Planning.



Dr Segun Obadire, the IRP Ag. Director

Dr Segun Obadire, the IRP's Acting Director provided the keynote address on behalf of the University. In his address, Dr Obadire provided a brief presentation which highlighted the University's mission and vision as well as the strategic objectives for the period 2021- 2025. He further shared what the Directorate of the International Relations and Partnerships does and the kind of support it offers to the respective faculties. Dr Obadire noted that we need to increase the number of students undertaking their post-graduate studies, "the SASUF project is an example of how internationalisation can support the University's post-graduate supervisory capacity whilst exposing our students to other milieus and cultures". Dr Obadire concluded by sharing words of encouragement and noted that the University is open for student and staff exchange and thanked everyone as well as the guests for their time and efforts.



Taken at Mapungubwe National Park



Dr Ingwani when facilitating the programme and presentations

In her welcome remarks, Dr Emaculate Ingwani remarked that the SASUF programme is part of the vibrant internationalisation programme at the University. Dr Ingwani extended her gratitude to the IRP Directorate and Dr. Obadire, the IRP Acting Director for collaborating on the URP SASUF programme. She further introduced all participants in attendance and noted that the programme will be centred on submissions of presentations from the project leaders, and student presentations on their respective research progress.

The chair (Dr. Ingwani) recognised those who joined virtually and facilitated the student's presentations. Students who presented shared progress on their research dissertations. The students who presented were from the University of Johannesburg (UJ) and University of Venda (UNIVEN). After each of their presentations, the audience was provided with a platform to raise questions and provide comments.



Funanani Nelshivhulana (UNIVEN) MURP, presented on his topic titled : Spatial Expansion of the Peri-Urban Zone in a Small Rural town of Vhembe District in Limpopo Province of South Africa



Prof Nils handing gifts to students who participated in the SASUF project



Prof. Nils Ekelund and Dr Per Schubert from Malmo University

She concluded by introducing Prof. Nils Ekelund and Dr Per Schubert from Malmo University, Sweden. Prof Ekelund and Dr Schubert expressed how delighted they were to collaborate with the universities in South Africa. They then provided a brief background on Malmo University, Sweden and their respective expertise. Prof Nils highlighted that UNIVEN students are welcome to study in Sweden through this partnership. Dr. Per Schubert noted that the focus of the programme is on the expansion of the ecosystem, and this project will act as a pipeline for growing and maintaining this ecosystem.



Priscila Banda, PhD candidate from university of Johannesburg (UJ), sharing her presentation on Spatial resilience of Wetland Ecosystems of Nandoni in Limpopo Province, South Africa



Lutendo Mawelewele (UNIVEN) MURP , submitting his presentation on Plication of Smart Value Chain Logistics for the Small Medium Brick Manufacturing Enterprise in Thohoyandou Town, South Africa.



Group photo of participants

Student Counselling and Career Development Unit held the first ever Peer-Helper team building



Peer-helpers play a key role as volunteer lay counsellors to assist their peers with issues that may affect them emotionally, psychologically or in their career development. Moreover, Peer-helpers participate in all programmes of the unit, this contributes to building skills as it impacts confidence, group interactions, while laying a foundation to serve in a work environment later in life. They advocate for Student Counselling and Career Development Unit (SCCDU) services referring students in need to be assisted by professional Student Counsellors who intervene in emotional and psychological issues. It is for these reasons that SCCDU recently held its first ever team building session with Peer-helpers. This team building session was held at Karibu Resort in Tzaneen.

Peer-helpers were taken through a three-day session. During this three-day session, they were engaged in several activities which challenged them on aspects of self-awareness, communication skills, decision-making skills, problem solving skills, metaphors, confidentiality, and referral protocols as well as the 'You and I message'. Feedback for the group indicated some level of increased personal insight, psychological

areas to be individually addressed and improved, and topics to be addressed on a larger scale within the University context such as sexual assaults, suicide, programme to educate on inclusivity of the LGBTQI++ community amongst others.

Challenges to be expected while serving as a Peer-helper, conduct and protocols to follow while assisting students with different needs were outlined. The value of working together as a team in assisting students within the university was also highlighted.

Peer helpers were encouraged to uphold an exemplary standard to mirror what other students can achieve in their personal, emotional, and academic development. On the final day, ethical code of conduct indicating the commitment to serve and conduct themselves throughout the 2022 cycle was drawn. Students were urged to be on the lookout for Peer-helpers in their residences and faculties whenever they need support.

For Psychosocial interventions, students should WhatsApp the word – 'psychology' to the following numbers, 072 925 6449 or 073 479 3481 or 071 100 7544 or 083 716 2921.

Peer helpers were encouraged to uphold an exemplary standard to mirror what other students can achieve in their personal, emotional, and academic development.

Twenty Trainee Student Entrepreneurship Ambassadors were introduced to design thinking



On Saturday, 07 May 2022, Twenty Trainee Student Entrepreneurship Ambassadors were introduced to Design thinking. The design thinking workshop took place because the University of Venda (UNIVEN) Strategic Thrusts 2 talks about UNIVEN being an Entrepreneurial University. UNIVEN thus intends to increase student entrepreneurship awareness campaigns to reach at least one thousand students and youth in the surrounding communities. In this regard, volunteer students who wish to be part of the solution are inducted each month to be part of ambassadorial team. Co-designed activities include amongst others, end class visits, exhibitions, use of social medial platforms, entrepreneurship Fridays, opportunity hour, inviting successful youth entrepreneurs to share their journey as entrepreneurs.

To kick start the implementation, students expressed the purpose of taking part in the induction by highlighting that, in order for them to get exposure and understanding of what is required to be a student ambassador, they knew that they had to attend these kinds of workshops.



During the workshop of the ambassadors, Prof Vhonani Netshandama stated that the students should take advantage of the opportunities that surround them. The workshop adopted the Design Thinking approach. Students were divided in four groups to apply the Design Thinking stages to come up with an idea on how to reach out to and engage more students and youth about entrepreneurship opportunities.



UNIVEN Community Engagement Directorate continues to welcome students who aspire to be entrepreneurs and also serve as part of the student ambassadorial teams.

The groups were given until end of May to revise their pitches, prepare the pitch transcript, record the pitches, and submit, which will be reviewed. The group with the most feasible proposals will be supported to test their ideas and be given performance

linked stipend during the testing period.

UNIVEN Community Engagement Directorate continues to welcome students who aspire to be entrepreneurs and also serve as part of the student ambassadorial teams.

Those who wish to be part of this team, should contact:

Mulalo Maumela on 072 091 7621 and Glen Maimela on 073 612 6851 or e-mail communityengagement@univen.ac.za

UNIVEN and VIVES University collaborate to support and strengthen Community health care workers in the management of non-communicable diseases through optimising Interprofessional learning within community of practice



Front row L-R: Ms Matshovhana Khuliso, Dr Tony Claeys, Dr Mashau Ntsieni and Prof Netshikweta Lizzy
Back row L-R: Bram Ekkel (Vives student), Dr Isabel Depraetere, Dr Mafumo Julia, Dr Goedele Baekelandt, and Brecht Ceuppens (Vives students)

On Monday, 21 February 2022, Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Venda met with the Faculty of Health Sciences from Vives University, Belgium, to discuss the way forward on data collection (RIPLS) with the Community Health Workers and the interviews with the students of different educational programmes in Health Sciences. The welcome meeting took place at the UNIVEN Council Chambers. UNIVEN team was led by Professor Lizzy Netshikweta (1st PI UNIVEN), Dr Mashau SN (2nd PI UNIVEN), and other project members were also present: Dr Mafumo JL and Ms Matshovhana K. Vives University delegation was led by its Project Leader (PI), Dr Tony Claeys, Dr Isabel Depraetere, Dr Goedele Baekelandt, and two students Bran and Brecht.

During his opening remarks and welcome message, UNIVEN Acting Director International Relations and Partnerships, Dr Segun Obadire, acknowledged and showed gratitude to the international partners who came despite of travel restrictions due to COVID-19. Dr Obadire highlighted to the partners on issues of students' supervision together (postgraduate) as well as issues of students/lecturers' exchange which should be taken into consideration.

UNIVEN and Vives University also partnered with the Regional Department of Health in the Vhembe District in a three-year project, creating sustainable Interprofessional learning among undergraduate healthcare students and community Healthcare Workers (CHWs).

The purpose of the project is to support and strengthen Community Health Workers (CHW's) in the management of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD's) through interprofessional learning. Interprofessional education is adopted in occasions when students from two or more professions in health and social care learn together during all or part of their professional training with the object of cultivating collaborative practice for providing patient-centred care.

It has been identified as a strategy to improve collaborative practice in health care, particularly in the care of non-communicable conditions.

The project builds on experiences from SI-initiative in UNIVEN: 'Community of Practice (COP) as a strategy to strengthen capacities of community health workers. In this project a community of practice has been set up with CHW's from three (03) municipalities in the Vhembe district. The COP-members meet on monthly basis with researchers from Department of Advanced Nursing Science, Department of Biokinetics, Recreation and Sport Science as well as Public Health Department. Using participative techniques knowledge and experience is shared and gained by the members.

This is participatory research; it revolves around participation and empowerment of traditional research 'subjects (CHWs) people that are the focus of the research exercise.

This project should change the lives of societies. South Africa's rise in non-

communicable diseases (NCDs) and healthcare provider shortages have generated the need for community health workers (CHWs) in rural areas to provide quality care to patients, families and groups who are in households.

The project achieves access to the communities and the training on ethics, principles on the care of non-communicable patients (Hypertensive patients) is in progress. Interprofessional education (IPE) is rewarding, because CHWs are trained on various topics including ethics and care of diabetic patients, although it is not yet embedded in the curricula of UNIVEN. Project is in progress, however, aspects of Family nursing in Community modules in the Department of Advanced Nursing and Public Health are embedded and cover Interprofessional learning and the training of CHWs.

The purpose of the project is to support and strengthen Community Health Workers (CHW's) in the management of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD's) through Interprofessional learning.

UNIVEN's Protection Services Department in collaboration with the Department of Social Development hosted a social crime prevention and awareness campaign



The University of Venda (UNIVEN)'s Department of Protection Services recently held a social crime prevention awareness campaign championed by the Department of Social Development. This event took place at the UNIVEN Student Cafeteria Lapa. The aim of this event was to equip the University community with crime prevention safety tips. Participants and the campaign stakeholders visited several on and off campus student residences.



Ms Ditebogo Manana from the Department of Social Development said that the Department of Social Development cares about the people's wellbeing. According to her the level of crime in South Africa is increasing, hence they are partnering with

different entities and institutions of higher learning to curb the crime.

As the Department of Social Development, Ms Ditebogo Manana said they were here to equip students with information and to educate students about some of the issues and outcomes of crime.

She urged students not to be pushed into peer pressure and said Social Development has programmes for people who need help. Those who need help should contact 0800 121 314 for crime such as theft, human trafficking, and cyber bullying.

For Gender Based Violence people should call 0800 428 428.



Mr Nditsheni Mathanya from the University's Department of Protection Services said their objective is to make sure that all students and staff members remain safe all the time. He encouraged students to walk in groups at night.



Mr Nditsheni Mathanya (far left) and Ms Ditebogo Manana (Fourth from left) with other members of the organising committee of this awareness campaign and students with gifts

We would like to hear from you!

Nendila is your communication channel.

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