



## The Importance of Community Engagement in Higher Education:

### Community Service Indaba

Friday June 11, 2021 – 02:00 PM, Pretoria (+2 GMT)

ZOOM MEETING ID: 824 0390 5575 PASSWORD: 317656



**Host/Moderator**  
Clement Giamini

Facilitators/Speakers



**Dr. Julie Drost**



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Globally, universities have a responsibility to engage with communities, contribute to the development of well-rounded graduates, design ground-breaking research and to contribute to the local and global through community engagement. The University of Eswatini's Centre for Community Service believes that its core mandate is to ensure that the institution fulfils its community engagement requirements.

Community engagement can take diverse forms: student volunteerism, service-learning, field education, and scholarly engagement through research and exchange programmes. Community engagement is founded on principles of capacity building, service leadership, and partnership. The University of Eswatini seeks to expose its students and staff to the value of community service in industry as well as society. To achieve the desired outcomes of community engagement, there ought to be a shared understanding and values of the role of community engagement in higher learning.

The Director of the Centre for Community Services, along with partners and friends, have agreed that there is a need for dialogue with the global community about the experiences of students, researchers, and industry leaders. There is a need to increase awareness and understanding on community engagement. The Seminar will host meaningful conversations and discussions on community engagement in order to begin to develop new community-university collaborations for improved engagement.

The Center will host a Seminar event to facilitate a 2-hour dialogue/conversation that will bring together local and international speakers to share their experiences, community-university research and partnerships, field education collaborations, and community engagement institutions within higher learning. The seminar seeks to provide an opportunity for participants to engage with each other in order to better understand what community engagement looks like in diverse contexts.

#### Objectives of Virtual Seminar

- To share community engagement experiences and their impact on enhancing learning
- To establish linkages between community service or engagement with action research
- To explore the benefits of community engagement for students, faculty, and the institution
- To explore how community engagement can lead to field education/practice placements