

The following matter forms part of the Environmental Scan for April 2019:

Council on Higher Education (CHE)

1) CHE Newsletter – Quality Matters, Volume 2, Issue No.2

https://www.che.ac.za/media_and_publications/che-newsletters/che-newsletter-quality-matters-volume-2-issue-no2-march-2019

- 2019 Quality promotion conference
The CHE hosted this 3 day conference from the 26th to 28th February 2019. This conference allowed for the 200 participants to engage meaningfully on matters of Academic Integrity. Da Vinci's Dean: Teaching and Learning and Dean: Design presented at the conference and were well received.
- The unbundled university
The CHE engaged with Higher Education policy makers and decision makers to discuss the implications of the emerging findings from the research.
- Statistics on Post-School Education and Training in South Africa: 2017
This publication presents data from 2012 to 2017 and covers enrolments, to graduates and participation rates of staff at South African universities
- Promoting quality assurance and developing essential networks with the higher education sector locally and abroad.
During the period December 2018 to March 2019 the CHE hosted delegates from various institutions of higher education in Botswana, Kenya, Somalia and Zambia, respectively". The visits allowed for information sharing and for the delegates to gain an understanding of the South African higher education and training system.
- Colloquium: changes in patterns of Student Governance
The CHE hosted the colloquium, which allowed participants to engage "on challenges, opportunities and solutions relating to students and student governance in higher education institutions". The Assistant Registrar of the Da Vinci Institute attended the Colloquium.
- Staff related matters
 - Dr Luyanda Marhaya has joined the CHE as a Senior Manager in the National Standards and Reviews Directorate.
 - Mr Patson Mochebane, who joined the CHE as a Supply Chain Officer in the Corporate Services directorate
 - Dr Christabelle Moyo as a Researcher in the Quality Assurance and Promotion Coordination (QAPC) directorate.

South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)

- 1) SAQA Bulletin: Volume 18, No.1

<http://www.saga.org.za/docs/webcontent/2019/sagabull18no12019.pdf>

The focus of this bulletin is on Articulation. SAQA partnered with Durban University of Technology to conduct research into “articulation between Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Higher Education, and beyond”. The “project included a National Articulation Baseline Study, seven in-depth case studies, and the actual collaborative activities needed to deepen articulation”. “The findings of the National Articulation Baseline Study were workshopped with participants and key NQF partners, leading to the development of two short documents, ‘The way forward for articulation’, and ‘Articulation enablers’. This bulletin shares some of the insights gained from this study.

Government Gazettes

- 1) Parliament welcomes announcement to settle historic student debt

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/historic-student-debt-25-mar-2019-0000>

The Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training made note of the announcement by the DHET that close to a billion rand is being made available to settle historic debt owed by students to universities. This is over and above the introduction of a fee-free policy in 2018

- 2) Statistics South Africa released ‘Education Series Volume V: Higher Education and Skills in South Africa 2017 report on 28 March 2019.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/statistics-south-africa-25-mar-2019-0000>

“The report presents data and analysis to contribute towards a better understanding of the higher education system in South Africa and also highlight gender disparity and household income background in higher education participation”. “The thematic report includes the participation of the young population in post-secondary education and training system, Transition from school to post-school education, post-school education and skills development and Higher education attainment”.

- 3) Higher Education and Training announces funding for 20 higher education partnerships

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/united-kingdom-higher-education-partnerships-11-mar-2019-0000>

The British Council, through a partnership with the DHET is funding “20 higher education partnerships involving 22 South African universities (including Universities of Technology) and 19 Universities from the United Kingdom”. This funding will help achieve the “targets set by the NDP, which states that by 2030, 75% of university academic staff should hold PhDs”.

UWN

- 1) How universities can integrate SDGs into higher education

<https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20190405155329231>

At a conference held in Sweden attended by over 500 participants, discussing the importance of, a universities role in educating students to co-create a sustainable society

- 2) Universities vs TVET – Are attitudes the problem

<https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20190315095852544>

“The Ethiopian education system attaches significance to technical and vocational education and training (TVET) as a mechanism for enhancing the country’s development”. However, spite of its potential to address the challenges of skill gaps and reduced unemployment, students, parents and the larger community appear to show little interest towards TVET as compared to university degrees. In most cases TVET is regarded as the last resort for those who wish to pursue a post-secondary academic path”

News24

- 1) Minister Naledi Pandor graduates with a PhD from the University of Pretoria