



Tshwane University  
of Technology  
*We empower people*

Faculty of Arts & Design



## LEARNING AND TEACHING CONVERSATIONS

### HARNESSING STUDENT TALENT IN PURSUIT OF BOTH (STUDENT) SUCCESS AND EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE?

Presented by **Professor Matete Madiba**

This session builds on a critical reexamination of what student success and educational excellence entail in an era marked by rapid change and rising expectations. Highlighting existing tensions, institutional pressure points, and potential fault lines that challenge traditional models of learning and development, the session interrogates what it will take to pursue these twin goals in tandem. Key questions include: Can an institution move beyond fragmented solutions and embrace a whole-university, whole-student ethos that bridges pedagogy, community, and policy? What are the strategic levers and game changing practices that could bring the desired shifts? Against the backdrop of digital transformation and AI's expanding role, how can emerging technologies support – and not overshadow – the human-centered mission of higher education? What kind of a university will be required to drive excellence powered by its (talented) students, not in spite of them?



**DATE:** 18 August 2025

**TIME:** 12:00 - 13:00

**FACILITATOR:** Dr Laetitia Orlandi, Assistant Dean: Teaching, Learning & Technology

Please click here to join the session: [Join the meeting now](#)

#### Biography

Matete Madiba is a member of the University of the Western Cape (UWC) Executive Team where she holds the position of Deputy Vice Chancellor: Student Development & Support. She also holds the position of Associate Professor, Faculty of Education (Business and Science Education Cluster). She was previously appointed as Deputy Director: Education Innovation and thereafter Director: Student Affairs at the University of Pretoria (UP).

Her research and development interests are in higher education transformation and innovation, including policy, curriculum development, student success, holistic student development, co-curricular design, student leadership development and the use of technology in higher education.

She has lead innovative projects on curriculum mapping and analytics, student online elections and e-voting, and the development and implementation of a mental health bot.

She was part of the task team that lead the writing of the UP Curriculum Transformation Framework and she chaired the UP Institutional Transformation Committee (ITC) for three years.

She previously served as chair of HELTASA (Higher Education Learning and Teaching of Southern Africa). She recently received a leadership award from SAASSAP (South African Association of Senior Student Affairs Professionals) in recognition of her contribution and leadership in the Association.

She currently serves as a guest editor for JSAA (Journal of Student Affairs in Africa) and previously as guest editor for SAJHE (South African Journal of Higher Education). She is also a research mentor and supervisor. She was the project leader for the UP Girls for Girls (G4G) project, a mentoring and leadership project for young women, aimed at promoting gender equity. She participated in Tuning Africa, a project of the African Union on the harmonisation of degrees across the continent. She has collaborated with international partners across a number of universities including the University of Maastricht in The Netherlands, DEUSTO University in Spain, The Open University in the UK and New York University where she has also done guest lecturing.