



TITLE OF ADDRESS: Towards Sustainable Well-being through Curricular Community Engagement: A South African Perspective

Prof Frances van Schalkwyk (PhD) is currently the Acting Dean in the Faculty of Humanities at the Central University of Technology, Free State, South Africa. By managing the different learning programmes in the Departments of Design and Studio Art, Communication Sciences as well as Teacher Education in the Faculty, she successfully engages with communities for mutual beneficial development in pursuing the vision of the University of Technology. As an academic staff member who is passionate about service learning as a pedagogy, one of her responsibilities include the facilitation of the various aspects of the institutionalization of service learning, with specific focus on promoting engaged scholarship, quality management, academic staff development and collaborative research initiatives in the Faculty of Humanities.

In 2005 she received a research grant of R26 000 and was nominated as the service learning capacity building programme coordinator at the CUT. She facilitated the training of academic staff from various programmes for the purpose of developing and implementing service learning modules within their respective learning programmes. Prof van Schalkwyk obtained a second masters degree qualification in 2008 (Cum Laude). The results of the dissertation titled: ***An evaluation of service learning outcomes for community members: A case study of a Sewing Technology module*** was presented at the **Third International Symposium on Service Learning** at the University of Indianapolis-Athens in Greece in 2009. In 2011, she published an article on service learning in an accredited journal (**Community participation in higher education service learning**).

The internationalization of community projects between higher education institutions, encouraged Prof van Schalkwyk to establish a relationship with Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) in the USA in 2014. This collaboration between CUT and MICA culminated in an affiliated online course, where students from both institutions are currently benefitted from. This online course further acts as an ongoing open dialogue platform where there are reciprocal interaction (narrative and visual interpretation of memory through photographic medium).

Prof van Schalkwyk is positive that community service learning provides an opportunity for the development of research capacity amongst young researchers. Her expectation is that community service learning will continue to grow in South Africa and will add to the value of training offered at institutions of higher learning, locally and internationally.