



Community
Engagement Unit

Community Engagement Colloquium 2019 28 – 31 October 2019 Faculty of Community and Health Sciences – Bellville Campus

The 3rd Annual Community Engagement Colloquium titled 'Finding the synergy between CE, Research, Teaching and learning in the context of the 4th industrial revolution' was held from 29 – 31 October 2019 in the Bellville CBD at the UWC Faculty of Community and Health Sciences building. A pre-workshop was attached to the colloquium focusing on Community Engaged Teaching and learning, an NRF funded research project with the three universities in the Western Cape. The research project is headed by Prof Hester Julie (UWC) and Prof Antoinette Smith-Tolken (Stellenbosch). The pre-workshop also informed the final day deliberations of the Community engagement Colloquium.

DAY 1

Prof Vivienne Lawack (DVC Academic) officially opened the colloquium proceedings. She remarked that community engagement is a scholarly activity and that it embodies the soul of UWC and also binds everyone together at this higher education institution. Prof Tyrone Pretorius (Rector and Vice Chancellor) set the scene for the deliberations over the two days and stated that UWC should not only be on the receiving end of innovation but also contribute to innovative teaching, learning and research in the 4IR. Prof Pretorius also introduced the keynote speaker, Dr Cornelius Thomas, alumnus of UWC and currently the Head of Cory Library of Humanities Research at Rhodes University, delivered the keynote address on the 29 October. Dr Thomas stressed the importance of hope and that we are in the period of the greatest prosperity in the history of humanity and it is our duty to ensure that no one is left behind. Higher education institutions should engage in a reciprocal process with communities and UWC is fortunate as its ethos speaks to engaging with the community first.

The second half of the first day provided opportunity for several presenters to engage in two concurrently run sessions according to the following two themes:

Theme 1: Community Engagement in the 4th Industrial Revolution

Theme 2: Facilitating sustainable leadership in communities: preparing for the 4IR

The panel presentation which followed presented by Prof Firdouza Waggie, Prof Hester Julie and Mrs Fazlyn Petersen, provided excellent contributions around various forms of community engagement. The take home message at the end of the day one was that we need to start closing the gap between the world of work and university offerings. The importance of this realization is the opportunity that relearning represents as the hope the process encapsulates is that we take the community with us and reinforce the UWC legacy.

DAY 2

Prof Priscilla Daniels, director of the Community Engagement Unit set the scene for day 2 and introduced the keynote speaker, Dr Fanelwa Ngece-Ajayi. Dr Ngece-Ajayi stressed that 4IR innovation should benefit the community and speak to the needs of the community, while bringing people along and not leave anyone behind. She acknowledged UWC for its role in her development stating that 'I am because UWC is' and that her academic and community engagement journey, is attributed to the ethos of UWC.

Two concurrent sessions were held subsequent to the keynote address in accordance to the following two themes:

Theme 1: Ethics regarding community engagement in the 21st century

Theme 2: Community Engagement and Co-creation

The concluding plenary session was facilitated by Prof Vivienne Lawack and Prof Hester Julie (Deputy Dean Community Health Sciences) and Dr Marlene Le Roux (CEO Artscape) provided thoughtful contributions. Prof Julie stressed the importance of identifying a community of engaged scholars while Dr Le Roux highlighted the importance of social justice and the integrated nature of community engagement. The golden thread of the colloquium was around the theme of hope and that a journey of hope is a journey of community engagement and its uncomfortable as you need to confront what you have 'parked'. In order to become citizens of hope, our practice needs to be embedded within the notion of social justice.

Prof Lawack concluded the proceedings and highlighted the following strides that UWC is making in institutionalising community engagement;

1. UWC award for Recognition in community engagement, integrating learning, teaching and research.
2. Promotion process should demonstrate evidence of community engagement.
3. Social justice is a base and articulated in the graduate attributes.
4. Goal 2 in the IOP speaks to developing change agents.

Dr Maurtin (Director of Strategic Projects) was the programme director for both days of the colloquium and thanked the Community Engagement Unit team, under the leadership of the Prof Priscilla Daniels for facilitating an event that delivered an excellent platform for critical deliberations around community engagement.