



15 June 2018

The 2018 Lekgotla on Entrepreneurship in Higher Education is fast approaching

The Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE) programme will host the EDHE Lekgotla 2018 from 27 to 29 June 2018 at the University of Cape Town. The EDHE Lekgotla 2018, which is also in celebration of World Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Day, is aimed at sharing best practice and fostering collaboration for the benefit of the South African youth and economy.

The three-day event will be executed in two parts: the main event, which is targeted at academics and support professionals at universities, along with other relevant stakeholders, and culminates in a tour of the university entrepreneurship ecosystem in the Western Cape. The second part, a Student Entrepreneurs Indaba on 29 June 2018, will entail interactive how-to sessions to help existing student entrepreneurs grow their businesses, while making a success of their studies. The Lekgotla is a practice-based event, aimed at information exchange and sharing best practice.

The main event will include three tracks focused on the primary goals of the EDHE Programme. Aligned with each of these goals are three corresponding Communities of Practice (CoPs) comprising numerous stakeholders. These are:

- CoP for the Development of Student Entrepreneurship;
- CoP for Entrepreneurship Development in Academia; and
- CoP for the Development of Entrepreneurial Universities.

The speaker line-up consists of international and local leaders in entrepreneurship development, from the public and private sector, as well as universities. International trends will be introduced and relevance to local contexts will be discussed. Throughout the event, there will be ample opportunity for attendees to participate in discussion and contribute their own learnings and perspectives to advance the national agenda for entrepreneurship development in higher education.

The Student Entrepreneurs Indaba, on the other hand, is a pilot niche event for students from across the country who simultaneously run businesses and study. Balancing these two challenging pursuits successfully requires specific skill sets, some of which will be shared during this indaba.

Stakeholders with an interest in entrepreneurship development in higher education are welcome to attend the EDHE Lekgotla 2018 and register on www.edhe.co.za by Friday 22 June 2018. Only a limited number of delegates can be accommodated and pre-registration is a requirement.

Background information on EDHE

Established at the end of 2016 within the University Education Branch of the Department Higher Education and Training, EDHE was inspired by the growing graduate and youth unemployment,

the resources available at universities, the national drive for SMEs and the need for third-stream income at universities. The programme was also motivated by the imperative to drive student and graduate entrepreneurship. The programme has since been included (from a funding perspective) in the University Capacity Development Programme (UCDP) of the Department Higher Education and Training.

Recognising that universities as centres of entrepreneurial development are at the heart of the EDHE initiative, the programme has now been located within Universities South Africa (USAf) as the implementing body. Thus EDHE represents a wonderful partnership between USAf and DHET through a grant made to the former.

The goals of the EDHE Programme are:

- **Student entrepreneurship**, i.e. mobilising the national student and graduate resource to create successful enterprises that will ultimately lead to both wealth and job creation.
- **Entrepreneurship development in academia**, i.e. support academics in instilling an entrepreneurial mindset within all students and graduates through the offering of relevant knowledge, transferral of practical skills and the application of business principles, not only to a specific discipline, but across disciplines.
- **Developing entrepreneurial universities**, i.e. creating a conducive environment that will enable universities to adapt strategically and embark on projects whereby third-stream income can be generated through innovative business ideas.

The EDHE Lekgotla 2018 is the second such event. The first, held in 2017, focussed on establishing a Community of Practice while putting the necessary structures in place to drive entrepreneurship development and sharing of best practice. The EDHE Lekgotla is meant to be an annual event.

Enquiries:

Dr Norah Clarke

Project Manager: Entrepreneurship Development

Department Higher Education and Training & Universities South Africa

Tel.: 083 654 4228

E-mail: Clarke.N@dhet.gov.za | norah@usaf.ac.za

www.edhe.co.za