



## Abridged Biography | Prof Lourens van Staden

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Prof van Staden has a wealth of experience in the higher education sector and has over the past four decades demonstrated his commitment to serving the poor and working class citizens of the country through his work.

Prof Van Staden studied at numerous universities and he examined over 30 Master and Doctoral degree candidates for a number of universities locally and abroad, published over 40 peer reviewed articles and technical reports and presented over 30 papers nationally and abroad.

Prof Van Staden has extensive career experience, starting as a lecturer to serving for 16 years as Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic and Research Affairs at numerous universities. He also served at numerous University Councils and National Boards and was the Chairperson of the Walter Sisulu University Council. He currently presides as Chairperson of the Board of the Technological Higher Education Network South Africa (THENSA), an organisation representing all the Universities of Technology in South Africa.

Prof Van Staden has extensive international exposure as an academic project leader in Europe and Africa. He conducted research for the Africa Institute of Education and Management (AIME) in Central and Eastern Africa, he is also a recipient of the prestigious Ernest Oppenheimer Research Award.

Prof Van Staden has a passion for technological innovation and received an award from the Design Institute of South Africa for managing a reverse engineering proto-type project. This manufacturing process was patented in South Africa, the USA, Canada, China, Japan Taiwan, Australia and all European countries (PCT/ZA00/00182).

Prof Van Staden worked as a Principal Education Specialist at the National Department of Education where he was responsible for the curriculum of Mechanical, Civil and Electrical national core syllabi.

As a visiting Professor at the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) in the USA he contributed to the development of various curricula in Technical Education.

In 2004, Prof Van Staden was appointed as Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic at the Tshwane University of Technology. During his tenure he was seconded by the Minister of Higher Education and Training to take up the role as Administrator at the Walter Sisulu University, where he is

credited for stabilising the institution and steering it back to operational and financial sustainability.

Prof Van Staden has been filling the position of Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Tshwane University of Technology since December 2014.

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