



3 August 2021

Registration is now open for delegates wishing to attend USAf's 2nd Higher Education Conference virtually

The 2nd Universities South Africa (USAf) Higher Education Conference, conducted in collaboration with the Council on Higher Education (CHE), will take place from 6 to 8 October, 2021. This conference will provide a platform for thought leadership, debates, deliberation and shared understanding among senior academics, researchers, the executive leadership of public universities, government, business and civil society.

The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) has endorsed the conference as a key national event for the sector.

Taking place within a context of significant disruption, uncertainty and complexity exacerbated by the CoVID-19 pandemic, the conference will, in broad terms, provide a platform to reflect on the state and purpose of South Africa's higher education system – looking at the past, the present and the future.

In more specific terms, the conference, themed *The Engaged University*, aims:

- To enable rigorous academic debate and deliberation on pertinent higher education issues informed by the work of USAf's strategic structures and programmes;
- To encourage and support solution-building among key stakeholders through facilitated dialogue and inquiry;
- To provide an opportunity for information-sharing and networking across a broad spectrum within the higher education sector and with stakeholders;
- To identify a set of goals and concrete actions towards the advancement and achievement of *The Engaged University*.

According to Professor Ahmed Bawa, USAf's Chief Executive Officer, the event is set to attract highly esteemed speakers from South Africa's public university system, the business sector as well as international university associations and consortia. Professor Bawa says the conference also offers a much-needed opportunity for USAf's strategy groups to retreat, think about and learn from the unprecedented challenges of CoVID-19 while contemplating the university of the future.

The event will combine in-person attendance by up to 250 selected delegates and additional 1500 attendees linking in through an online streaming facility.

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