**SAVE THE DATE**
**2024 Siyaphumelela Conference**
25 June 2024 - 28 June 2024

## About

On behalf of *Saide*, the coordinating body for the Siyaphumelela Initiative and the Kresge Foundation, we invite you to participate in the 2024 Siyaphumelela Network Conference. This event will take place from 25-28 June 2024 at the Wanderers Club in Johannesburg.

This conference will celebrate 10 years of the Siyaphumelela Initiative, marking its expansion from five grantee universities in 2014 to 20 of South Africa's 26 public universities from June 2024. In so doing, we also recognise the generous support from the Kresge Foundation throughout this journey.

The conference will provide a platform for key South African role players and international experts in student success to discuss evidence-based practices and national systemic interventions.

## Highlights in the conference programme

The opening keynote will be presented by Susan Adams, from Achieving the Dream in the USA. Susan is championing a human-centred approach to integrating Artificial Intelligence that enhances, rather than replaces, the critical role of educators. With over 25 years of experience as a curriculum strategist and faculty coach, she currently serves as the Associate Director of Teaching and Learning at Achieving the Dream. In this role, she spearheads programmes designed to build institutional capacity and foster faculty development for equitable student success. Additionally, Susan will present a workshop during the conference on an adaption of the AI DREAM studio workshop from the 2024 DREAM conference held in Atlanta, USA, in February.

Mr Simphiwe Kunene, the first Siyaphumelela DREAM Scholar, will present his "I am" poem, which received a standing ovation at the DREAM 2024 conference. Simphiwe is an education master's student originally from the Qwaqwa campus at the University of the Free State.

At this significant milestone, marked by the launch of Siyaphumelela Network 3.0, the seven Siyaphumelela 2.0 partner institutional leads, along with their student delegates, will reflect on their greatest successes and achievements during Siyaphumelela 2.0. They will share lessons learned and offer advice to the new Siyaphumelela 3.0 partner institutional leads.

The programme will feature a panel discussion with seven Vice-Chancellors or Deputy Vice-Chancellors of Academic/Teaching and Learning from the Siyaphumelela 2.0 partner universities. The panel will highlight the key achievements of these institutions in their student success journeys, discuss the lessons learned and offer advice to new grantees.

The highlight of the conference is the cocktail event for all delegates at 18h00 on Thursday 27 June 2024. During this event, we will welcome our new partners to Siyaphumelela 3.0. This social gathering provides an opportunity for networking, connecting with fellow delegates and enjoying a relaxed evening with music and dance.

# 2024 Siyaphumelela Network Conference

## Draft Programme

| Start | Tuesday 25 June 2024 | Wednesday 26 June 2024 | Thursday 27 June 2024 | Friday 28 June 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 07:30 | Registration | Registration | Registration | Registration |
| 08:00 | | | | |
| 08:30 | Registration | Keynote Address | Keynote Address and Panel Discussion | Keynote Address and Panel Discussion |
| 09:00 | | | | |
| 09:30 | | Panel Discussion: Siyaphumelela 2.0 Partner VCs/DVCs | | |
| 10:00 | | | | |
| 10:30 | | Refreshment Break | Refreshment Break | Refreshment Break |
| 11:00 | | Parallel Paper Sessions | Parallel Paper Sessions | Keynote Address |
| 11:30 | | | | |
| 12:00 | | | | 11:45 Reflections and Closing |
| 12:30 | Lunch | Comfort break - Lunch | Comfort break - Lunch | **Conference Ends** |
| 13:00 | | | | |
| 13:30 | Welcome | | | |
| 14:00 | Opening Keynote: *Susan Adams (Achieving the Dream)* | Parallel Paper Sessions | Parallel Paper Sessions | |
| 14:30 | | | | |
| 15:00 | Siyaphumelela Dream Scholar: Simphiwe Kunene (UFS) | | | |
| 15:15 | Siyaphumelela 2.0 Partner Presentations | | | |
| 15:30 | | Refreshment Break | Refreshment Break | |
| 16:00 | Refreshment break | Parallel Paper Sessions | Parallel Paper Sessions | |
| 16:30 | Siyaphumelela 2.0 Partner Presentations | | | |
| 17:00 | | | | |
| 17:30 | | **End** | | |
| 18:00 | **End** | 18h00 for 18h30 Invited Dinner | **End** | |
| Evening Activities | None | | 18h00 Cocktail Event for all Delegates | |

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# Important Dates

**Registration**

1 May - 15 June 2024

**2024 Siyaphumelela Conference**

25 - 28 June 2024

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## Registration

**Click here to register. Registration is now open**

**Cost: R4000 excl. VAT.**

Using the registration link you can generate bulk quotations for your institution, or an individual quotation. The bulk quotation has been amended to include the list of delegates. Once your quotation has been processed, please forward the purchase order or proof of payment to maureenm@saide.org.za. If you have any challenges or requests related to the quotation or invoice, please contact maureenm@saide.org.za.

Presenters whose proposals are accepted for the conference will have their registration fee waived. This is limited to one presenter per presentation.

## Accommodation

Limited accommodation is available within walking distance at the Protea Hotel by Marriott Johannesburg Wanderers. Additional accommodation options are available in Rosebank or Melrose Arch.

## Keynote presenter

Susan Adams is a pioneering leader in post-secondary education, championing a human-centred approach to integrating AI that enhances rather than replaces the critical role of educators. With over 25 years of experience as a curriculum strategist and faculty coach, she serves as the Associate Director of Teaching and Learning at Achieving the Dream where she spearheads programs to build institutional capacity and foster faculty development for equitable student success.

As the founder of "Women in AI", a thriving network group in her hometown of Boulder, Colorado, Susan is a thought leader advocating for ethical, human-centric AI implementation. Her philosophy centres on augmenting human talents and values through AI, not ceding control to autonomous systems. She envisions AI as a collaborative partner that coexists with and elevates the irreplaceable abilities of human empathy, creativity, and higher-order reasoning.

Susan has pioneered strategies guiding faculty to transition from viewing AI narrowly as a plagiarism tool to leveraging its potential as a powerful learning catalyst when implemented thoughtfully. A humanist at heart, she underscores the importance of developing AI literacy and understanding its applications, limitations, and ethical implications.

Throughout her distinguished career, Susan has excelled in curriculum design, digital learning, systems training and cross-functional collaboration. She deftly leverages data analytics and AI-integrated technologies to craft engaging, effective educational experiences grounded in adult learning principles and clear communication.

As a second-generation college graduate and the first in her family to earn a master's degree, Susan is driven by a profound belief in education's transformative power. She relentlessly pursues making learning more meaningful, accessible, and enriched through human-AI synergies that elevate human ingenuity and wisdom.

## Further information

https://www.siyaphumelela.org.za/conf/2024/index.html

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