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Dear Colleagues

## **RESEARCH COLLABORATION WITH UMALUSI: NSC RESULTS AS PREDICTORS OF SUCCESS IN HEIs**

You are kindly invited to participate in a study that Umalusi intends to undertake in collaboration with all South African public universities. Umalusi is interested in evaluating the ability of the National Senior Certificate (NSC) results to act as predictors of academic success at education institutions. This research is aimed at answering the research question: *"What is the association between the level of NSC results obtained by learners, and their levels of achievement at institutions of higher learning?"*

The Grade 12 results have generally been used as a predictor of learners' success at higher education institutions. Upon the introduction of the new qualification NSC, which was examined for the first time at the end of 2008, education institutions began to question how best to use the NSC results. In an attempt to answer these questions, Umalusi did a pilot study with three institutions namely: the University of Pretoria, the University of Johannesburg and the Witwatersrand University. The aim of the research was to investigate whether the NSC results could predict the academic success of students admitted at these institutions.

As a way of expanding the project, Umalusi is inviting all higher education institutions to be part of this initiative. For Umalusi to investigate if NSC is a predictor of success at higher education institutions, Umalusi requires first years' student data from each participating institution. As such, Universities would be required to share the first years' student data with Umalusi. The data will be analysed by individuals from participating institutions and Umalusi will provide guidance. Umalusi developed a data tool, which will enable institutions to easily analyse the data. The participating individuals from institutions will be expected to attend Umalusi meetings, analyse the data and interpret the output. Umalusi will provide training to the participating individuals.

Most of higher education institutions aim to increase their research productivity and participation in high-level conferences. The research *"The investigation of the ability of NSC results to act as predictors of academic success at institutions of higher learning in South Africa"* creates a platform to achieve this aim.

Whilst all reasonable steps are taken to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the information contained herein, Umalusi accepts no liability or responsibility whatsoever if the information is, for whatsoever reason, incorrect and Umalusi reserves its right to amend any incorrect information.

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Umalusi will provide flexibility to researchers collaborating in this project to participate in high-level conferences using data gathered from the project upon agreement by participating parties. The data collected can assist in making evidence-based decisions regarding improving student success at higher education institutions. Moreover, the data can be used to improve or review policies at institutions of higher learning and Umalusi.

Umalusi will cover travel and accommodation costs related to the project. No remuneration will be paid to the participants. Please respond by the 28 April 2017 to enable Umalusi in organising a training workshop for participants. Umalusi extends its appreciation in anticipation of your institution collaborating with Umalusi in this research.

Yours sincerely



Dr Mafu S Rakometsi

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**