



FIRST SOUTH AFRICAN SYMPOSIUM ON TEACHER EDUCATION FOR INCLUSION 2015:

LINKING RESEARCH TO PRACTICE

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS AND INVITATION TO REGISTER

Optentia Research Focus Area at the Vaal Triangle campus of North-West University (NWU) in collaboration with the Education Faculty on the Potchefstroom Campus (NWU) is pleased to announce that it will be hosting the 1st Bi-Annual Symposium on Teacher Education for Inclusion: Linking Research to Practice on 1 and 2 October 2015 in Vanderbijlpark, South Africa.



AIM

Over the past two decades the notion of including and educating learners with diverse educational needs in mainstream schools has shaped developments in education across the world. Dealing with a diversity of needs in an inclusive educational environment, however, seems to remain difficult for teachers. A lack of appropriate training is reported worldwide by teachers as a fundamental cause. Research continues to explore teacher educators, pre-service as well as in-service teachers' feelings, opinions, experiences, frustrations and needs with regard to training; however, it appears not to be changing practice drastically. It is, consequently, critical that researchers, policy makers, teacher educators and practitioners (teachers) convene to discuss how research and practice can meet to ensure the effective training of pre-service as well as in-service teachers.

The aim of this symposium will be to provide an update on international as well as national research advances with regard to teacher education on inclusive education. However, a major objective will also be to provide opportunities for teacher educators at Higher Education Institutions and teachers-in-practice to have discussions and establish collaboration networks on how to ensure that research on teacher education can change practice.

We are very privileged to have internationally, and nationally renowned researchers on inclusive education who will do keynote presentations at this symposium:

- Prof. Elizabeth Kozleski from the University of Kansas, United States of America
- Prof. Rolf Werning from the University of Leibniz, Germany
- Prof. Petra Engelbrecht, from North-West University, South Africa
- Prof. Hannu Savolainen, from the University of Jyväskylä, Finland
- Dr Elizabeth Walton, from the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
- Prof. Mirna Nel, from the North-West University, Vaal Triangle Campus, South Africa

TOPICS

- Teacher education for inclusion in Germany
- Teacher education for inclusion in the United States of America
- Teacher education for inclusion in England and Palestine
- Teacher education for inclusion in Finland
- Teacher education for inclusion in South Africa
- Networking and collaboration



ABSTRACTS

Research findings, research in progress, a statement of an idea for research or a paper ready to present for refereeing prior to publication may be submitted. It is important that the theme is addressed in this paper. Each paper will be allocated twenty minutes for presentation and ten minutes for constructive dialogue.

Please submit your abstract online on the Optentia website (see www.optentia.co.za/symposium.php?id=Mg%3D%3D). It may not be longer than 200 words. All abstracts will be reviewed by two independent reviewers. The author/s will be informed about the decision after the peer review process.

IMPORTANT DATES

Last date for submission of abstract: 30 June 2015

Last date for feedback on abstract submission: 14 August 2015

Last date for registration: 30 August 2015

SYMPOSIUM VENUE

The symposium will take place at the Quest Conference Centre in Vanderbijlpark, South Africa. Accommodation will be available at the Conference Centre as well as at a wide variety of guest houses in the area. A list of possible accommodation appears on the Optentia website.

WORKSHOPS

Two workshops will be presented before the conference:

- 30 September 2015: 09h00 – 12h00 - Quantitative Methods for Longitudinal Research (Prof. Hannu Savolainen)
- 30 September 2015 13h30 – 16h00 – Mixed Method Research (Prof. Petra Engelbrecht)

KEY INFORMATION

Teacher Education for Inclusion Symposium 2015

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The logo for Optentia, featuring the word "OPTENTIA" in a green, sans-serif font. Above the letter "O" is a stylized orange semi-circle.