

NWU approached by Umalusi to assist in developing standards across sectors in Hospitality studies, Consumer Studies and Tourism

Prof. Mary Grosser and Dr Magda Kloppers were invited by Dr Celia Boooyse, Curriculum Manager at Umalusi (Council for Quality Assurance in General and Further Education and Training), to take part in a discussion meeting with various other stakeholders, namely SACA (South African Chefs Association), IACESA (International Association for Cognitive Education in Southern Africa), NDT (National Department of Tourism), FEDHASA (South African Hospitality Industry), DBE (Department of Basic Education), (CES: Tourism, Consumer studies, Hospitality Studies) CATHSSETA (Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality, Sport Sector Education and Training Authority), UJ (lecturers in Hospitality) NWU, UNISA (lecturers Tourism), CPUT, UP(lecturers in Consumer Studies), TVET colleges and Rock City Design Company, to establish a holistic framework that would develop and improve standards for the following subjects: Consumer Studies, Hospitality Studies and Tourism. An analysis of the subject curricula and their related Practical Assessment Tasks between 2010-2014 revealed among other findings, the need for embracing the strengths of all stakeholders who will be involved in promoting and advancing:

- A stronger cognitive focus in the delivery of the curricula
- An increase in addressing higher order thinking in assessment
- Teacher development and support processes in advancing thinking during teaching, learning and assessment

The discussions took place on 3 June 2015 at the School of Tourism and Hospitality (UJ). On behalf of NWU/IACESA, Prof. Grosser delivered a presentation entitle: **Advancing critical thinking during teaching, learning and assessment: Assisting schools to become thinking communities**, in which she highlighted the role that the researchers in the Optentia sub-programme, Holistic learner development in diverse contexts, in collaboration with IACESA, could play in terms of teacher support to intentionally and purposefully teach and assess for thinking. This support is *inter alia* envisaged through the Short Learning Programme in Cognitive Development that was accredited at NQF Level 6 during 2014 by NWU.

