

## Education Open Day Speech- August 2019

Good Morning Colleagues, Former Colleagues, Students and our partners in Education...

It is indeed an honour to open this inaugural Faculty of Education and Social Sciences Open Day. And I would like to say thank you to the Dean, Prof Thobeka Mda, for having the wisdom in seeing the relevance of an event like this. I hope to see it replicated across the other five faculties soon.

A special thank you to our keynote speaker, Dr Marlene Le Roux, who continues to be such a fantastic friend to CPUT. You are a busy woman, yet you seldom turn down an invitation to inspire and teach our students. We appreciate you and are so grateful to have you in our fold as a Honourary Doctorate.

Students I hope you appreciate the opportunity that you are being presented with today. You have the unique chance to network with the Faculty staff and Western Cape Education Department partners and more importantly, with each other. The two campuses have distinct personalities but I hope Wellington will get to know Mowbray and *vica versa*. You may have different ages, races and languages but ultimately you will all be CPUT graduates in the near future. The networks you make at varsity will be the same networks you use throughout your career.

Getting together like this, as a collective, is so important for critical reflection. As you explore the theme '*It Takes a Village*' ask yourself 'Where have we come from as a Faculty' and equally importantly 'Where are we going?'

Here at CPUT we are continuously having those same discussions and our Vision 2030 strategy is a roadmap for the institutions coming decade. And key to that strategy is Oneness, we call it One Smart CPUT and in essence it aspires to use our collective strengths, and differences to anticipate the coming decade and prepare our students for it.

And as Faculty of Education students, who will one day inspire the next generation of learners, you should be asking yourself similar questions. How do you prepare these learners not for the world they are currently living in- but the one that is coming. In conclusion, thank you to the Dean and Faculty staff for inviting me to the event today. I look forward to visiting some of the displays and getting to know some of you better. Enjoy the short recess next week and keep safe.

Thank You



