

VC Speech Staff Induction Speech prepared for delivery on 12 March 2019

Good morning colleagues.

A warm CPUT welcome to you from the **Management, Staff, and Students** of the University.

Some of you assumed your duties this year and others are here since the latter part of last year, to all of you allow me to say: Thank You...

Thank you for choosing CPUT as your place of employment. I sincerely hope that you will be happy here and achieve the personal and professional goals you have set for yourself.

To know where you are going- It is important to also know where you are coming from and so it may be useful to understand a little bit about the institution you join...

CPUT was established in 2005 as a result of a merger of two Technikons, The Cape Technikon and the Peninsula Technikon. Both of these were strong vibrant institutions- each with a rich history of their own. Perhaps many of you even studied at them?

The merger made CPUT the largest university in the Western Cape, both in terms of student numbers (this year our enrolment target is just shy of 36 000) but also in terms of real estate. CPUT has five district campuses in the greater Cape Town area- The CBD, Bellville, Mowbray, Granger Bay and Wellington as well as a presence in other locations like Groote Schuur and Tygerberg. Consolidation of our campuses and faculties was a costly and time consuming endeavour but we have made good headway thus far with much of the hard work already completed.

- You may have read about some of our recent achievements in the media, like the successful launch of South Africa's second nanosatellite into space. Built right here at CPUT by our team of Space Cadets, ZACube-2 will assist in monitoring our expansive coastline and detect devastating veldfires. We have also just been told that an additional R27 million has been pledged to CPUT to build the next 3 nano-sats.

- In the Health and Food sphere CPUT is exploring novel food sources which can offer the population affordable but nutrient rich nourishment. To this end research into the lesser known Bambara Nut, a gluten/lactose and cholesterol free nut, is exploring tasty products that will soon be on a supermarket shelf near you.
- CPUT is a leader in exploring the full benefits of our indigenous Rooibos plant. With its unique anti-oxidant properties Rooibos is a proudly South African product and our Oxidative Stress Research Centre is harnessing its full potential in a variety of innovative products.
- Similarly the range of Omega Caro E products is another healthy innovation which was developed at CPUT. Problems like eczema, psoriasis and arthritis are improved with regular use. The product range even extends to a canine and kiddies range.

Ladies and gentlemen I could go on and on, but I am sure my colleagues will be exploring these and many more innovations in their own slots later.

It is clear that there is a lot going on at CPUT and as can be expected from a university of our size- there are many challenges, but at the same time this is also a place with numerous opportunities, the greatest of which will be to improve your qualifications and study at a fraction of the cost.

Leverage these opportunities to your advantage.

As we support you in reaching your full potential, we also expect the same in return. CPUT needs your support to reach its full potential. We need **every** member of the CPUT community to play their part- whether in an administrative or academic post. Encouraging a positive climate and culture at CPUT is one way you can do your bit. Endeavour to provide good customer service to anyone you encounter. The students are our customers and we must respect them if we are to expect the same in return. Ultimately, valuing people and appreciating our differences is what makes us who we are. We don't need to look to other institutions and feel compelled to replicate what we see there. Our university is uniquely itself and I am certain you will also grow to love it, as I have.

In CONCLUSION: CPUT positions itself as OneSmartCPUT. **Smart** because we want to harness the benefits of the latest technology to improve but also **One** because we must work as a unit towards our common goals and aspirations. We cannot do it alone- We need you.

I wish you well during your stay here at CPUT. May it be a long and happy one. Grow with us, together we can all achieve bigger and better things.

Thank you and enjoy the rest of your induction program.