

Rhodes University appeal: an invitation to a partnership for good

As we prepare to review of our Institutional Development Plan (IDP) in 2021, it has become even more evident that the world economy has changed forever, and so has Rhodes University. Staying ahead in what we have done over 100 years in our local community, our country and globally requires both a will and a plan. Based on these two pillars we seek to build strong collaborations with our funders and identify potential new ones to work towards a common dream – to further strengthen the position of Rhodes University as a distinct and distinctive institution of higher learning in the southern tip of Africa.

To stay ahead while sustaining the rich scholarly legacy built over decades of excellence, we are overhauling our approach to fundraising and advancement. We are placing more emphasis on building mutually beneficial and sustainable partnerships anchored on a strong value proposition and the capabilities of our University. The fact that Rhodes University excels in undergraduate teaching, research and Community Engagement and continues to produce excellent leaders in diverse fields of human endeavour to build a better society and a better world, forms a strong foundation on which to propel our University further.

In this regard, we have identified specific complementary areas of strength and areas for development. Taken together, these point to the future Rhodes University. We invite you to be part of it by collaborating with us in the following areas:



Funding area	Strategic value proposition
<p>Sports and culture Ref: SPORT</p>	<p>We seek to build a wholesome on campus life experience for students. We would like to strengthen institutional culture and identity of our students and staff through sports. There are added potential benefits in this regard: Our University's location "at the centre" of the Eastern Cape Province holds numerous advantages for integrated regional sports and culture development. Our strong Community Engagement programme could mean greater value for the Sarah Baartman region for social cohesion, fighting substance abuse and building healthy communities. Projects within this areas include building new facilities (astro turf), upgrading of facilities.</p>
<p>Water Research Ref: WATER</p>	<p>The Eastern Cape generally, and Makhanda in particular, is a water scarce area. The threat to the sustainability of the University that this challenge poses cannot be overemphasised. The Institute for Water Research at Rhodes University is a world leader in various areas. Specific targeted research in this area would not only help alleviate a developing emergency but could be a strategic addition to RU scholarship and contribution to the continent.</p>
<p>Nanotechnology Ref: NANOCENTRE</p>	<p>The unique pedigree that Distinguished Professor Tebello Nyokong¹ offers in her field, alongside the relatively exclusive research environment that the institute offers stand the University at a major advantage worldwide. The main project in this area is a construction of a building to house world-class researchers and cutting-edge research work.</p>
<p>Post-Graduate Studies Ref: POSTGRADCENTRE</p>	<p>Rhodes University historically, has carved a respectable niche in higher education research. On a per-capita basis, the University has been in the top three research-intensive Universities in South Africa for the past three years. We have the highest proportion of PhD lecturers to student ratio in the country. This creates a solid foundation on which to build an even stronger research culture and an even more attractive research institution. The main project in this area is a construction of a customised, modern Post-Graduate centre.</p>

¹ Distinguished Professor Nyokong has been invited to join the Royal Society of Chemistry as an Honorary Fellow in recognition of "her distinguished and groundbreaking contribution to the chemical sciences and as an influential leader." (Professor Tom Welton, OBE CChem FRSC President of the Society)



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In addition to the above identified areas for funding partnerships, there are two fundraising projects that I would like to share with you which are also critical for the future of our University and its long term sustainability:

- Isivivane Student Fund covers four components:
 - Undergraduate student funding
 - Post graduate student funding
 - Residence maintenance
 - Unrestricted funding
- and Pathways to Education (VC's Education Initiative).
 - This partnership (with GADRA) is a multi-faceted programme aimed at improving the quality of teaching and learning in the local schools in Makhanda. This is to ensure that future residents of Makhanda have opportunities to access transformative Rhodes University education or higher education more generally.

The soul of our University is being redefined around these projects. We invite you to form lasting partnerships with us through a social compact of mutual benefit to build better society together.

Every year, Rhodes University benefits from your generosity as our alumni, friends and supporters. We hereby appeal to you once more to rally behind these worthy causes and ensure that Rhodes University continues to be one of the best universities in Africa

We realize that our donors may want to support other areas within the institution. Please visit the University 'giving' page (www.ru.ac.za/giving) for other opportunities that may interest you.

We remain deeply indebted to you for all that you do for our university, for humanity.

Be part of it, with us.

Luzuko Jacobs

Director: Communication and Advancement