



**Nelson Mandela  
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University**

*for tomorrow*

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**Ref:**

**Contact person:** Prof P Naude

2012-11-21

Higher Education Leadership and Management (HELM) Programme

Dear Sir/Madam

**RECOMMENDATION: HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME – LEAD COMPONENT 2013**

It gives me great pleasure to recommend Dr André du Plessis, Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Education at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU), as a candidate for the HESA: LEAD Component 2013.

The proposed applicant has been with the NMMU for just over five years, coming from the primary school education sector where he was Head of Department. In this short period at the NMMU, he has distinguished himself on various fronts and has been acknowledged by the NMMU at our prestigious awards evenings for his outstanding contributions. In 2010 he received the NMMU Faculty of Education's Emerging Teacher of the Year Award, in 2011 the NMMU Faculty of Education's Teacher of the Year Award as well as the NMMU Teacher of the Year Award. In 2012 he received the NMMU Faculty of Education's Emerging Researcher of the Year Award as well as the NMMU Best Emerging Engagement Project Award. This is testimony to his contributions to excellence towards the university and the communities in which he engages. It not only demonstrates academic ability, but also leadership on the academic front.

Dr du Plessis has been module coordinator for various on-campus and off-campus modules. He also uses the latest technologies in teaching and learning and has been instrumental in using and publishing online snippets of lectures by using the Apple iPad. Technology wise, he always tries to be at the forefront to test and embrace new developments and plays a vital role not only in the NMMU ICT HOD Committee, but also in the NMMU Blended Learning Committee.

His expertise has been recognised locally and internationally. Locally, Dr du Plessis has been invited to provide presentations related to ICT in Education at conferences and chaired the Africa Higher-Ed ICT Conference in 2011 and has been invited to present again at the same conference in 2013. He serves on the International Organization for Science and Technology Education's (IOSTE) executive committee since 2010 and was re-elected in 2012 for another two years.

In 2013, he will be the Head of Programme (PGCE). This appointment highlights the fact that there is great confidence in his leadership and management abilities.

I have no doubt that Dr du Plessis will be an asset not only to the Faculty of Education and the NMMU, but also in higher education in general. I therefore strongly recommend him as a candidate for the 2013 HESA programme.

Yours in Higher Education

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Piet Naude".

Piet Naude (Prof)  
DVC: ACADEMIC