

INTERNATIONAL SCHOLAR AT THE HELM OF GROUND BREAKING TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

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SANTS Private Higher Education Institution has significantly strengthened its academic team with the appointment of an internationally renowned education expert to deal with the demands of a rapid growth in student enrolments. With more than two decades of experience in Higher Education, Professor Jean Baxen will as the Executive Academic Director, lead SANTS' academic department of 217 highly qualified staff with her vast experience and knowledge of the Higher Education sector and teacher training in particular.

Prof Baxen started her career in the Higher Education sector in 1996 as a senior lecturer at the University of Cape Town's School of Education. She was appointed as an Associate Professor by 2009 at Rhodes University and in 2010, took up the position of Deputy Dean: Research in the Education Faculty. Professor Baxen was promoted to Full Professor in 2012.

In 2014, Professor Baxen was appointed as Professor and Head of the Wits School of Education at the University of Witwatersrand. As a highly skilled, experienced, and competent academic, Prof Baxen, was appointed as the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation by 2015 at the University of Zululand.

Professor Baxen has worked with students registered on Initial Teacher Education, Continuing Professional Development and post-graduate programmes at three eminent national institutions. These programmes include the Bachelor of Education, Advance Certificate in Education, Post Graduate Certificate in Education, Bachelor of Education (Honours), Masters in Education and PhD programmes. This entailed lecturing, course design and coordination, and supervision for postgraduate students. Professor Baxen participates in postgraduate supervision capacity development initiatives and has been a facilitator in programmes geared towards increasing PHD enrolment and completion in institutions nationally.

In recent months, the academic department at SANTS has vastly grown, increasingly working collaboratively with established scholars and renowned academics from public universities to enhance its programmes. Scholars currently working with SANTS are from Schools/Faculties of Education at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, University of Witwatersrand, University of Johannesburg, University of Stellenbosch, University of Fort Hare, University of Pretoria, and the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. The leadership offered by Professor Baxen in such collaborations has enhanced programmatic rigour and ensured greater synergies between public and private institutions offering Initial Teacher Education.

Since 2014, SANTS experienced a student growth rate in excess of 220% with current enrolments exceeding 6400. These student teachers are registered on the Diploma in Grade R Teaching, B Ed Foundation Phase Teaching and B Ed Intermediate Phase Teaching programmes and reside in Gauteng, KwaZulu- Nata, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Free State, Eastern Cape and the North West province. The institution looks forward to increasing its academic staff compliment under the helm of a respected scholar.



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