

CARNEGIE DIVERSIFYING THE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

February, 2024

WITS
UNIVERSITY



Welcome to the first edition of the CDTA newsletter. Read on to keep abreast with what is new.

UPCOMING CARNEGIE VISIT

DAME LOUISE RICHARDSON



We are delighted to announce an upcoming visit from Dame Louise Richardson, President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

On the 12th of February 2024, Dame Richardson will be visiting Wits University, Johannesburg. She will be accompanied by the Vice President of Carnegie, Prof. Deana Arsenian.

A heartfelt thank you to all members of staff and fellows who have generously agreed to share their insights and experiences as beneficiaries of the Carnegie Diversifying the Academy Programme (CDTA).

The forthcoming dialogue sessions with Dame Richardson promise to be inspiring, enlightening and engaging.

Dame Richardson brings an impressive background to her role, having previously served as the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of St. Andrews in Scotland from 2009 to 2015, and subsequently as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford from 2016 to 2022.

Her exemplary contributions to higher education were formally recognized in June 2022, when Queen Elizabeth II bestowed upon her the title of Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (DBE).

For additional information about Dame Richardson please read: <https://www.carnegie.org/about/staff/dame-louise-richardson>

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW PROGRAMME MANAGER: LETHU KAPUEJA



We are proud to share that the current round of CDTA funding has awarded grants to 60 deserving recipients!

With the expansion of our programme, we warmly welcome Lethu Kapueja as our new programme manager to the CDTA team. Bringing with him a wealth of experience, Lethu has served as a Research Manager and strategist at Wits for 15 years, notably contributing to projects such as the Faculty of Commerce Law and Management research office and the DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence in Human Development. His expertise extends to various other projects and grants, including his involvement with the Wits Health HUBB.

In addition to part-time his role with CDTA, Lethu also dedicates his other time as the Director of New Business Development and Communications for Save the Children South Africa. Lethu is a dad of four, with the most recent addition arriving in the last month! We are excited to have Lethu, with his cool head and strategic thinking, on board.

Please contact him on lethu.kapueja@wits.ac.za

ENHANCE YOUR SCIENTIFIC IMPACT: JOIN OUR SCIENCE COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP WITH JiveMedia!

We are delighted to bring to your attention an upcoming Science Communication Workshop with JiveMedia, tailored to enhance your academic citizenship and bolster your public engagement efforts as a CDTA fellow. This one-day workshop promises an enriching engagement as experienced trainers guide you in transforming your research into concise, impactful articles. The articles will receive professional editing by the JiveMedia team and will feature professional-grade photos and imagery, ensuring that your research reaches a broader audience beyond academia.

The workshop is open to all Grant Recipients from the 2021 funding phase, and offers a valuable opportunity to refine your communication skills and effectively disseminate your findings. Keep an eye on your inbox for further details, as we will be emailing you soon with all the information you need to participate.



EMPOWERING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE: INTRODUCING ENHANCED COACHING SUPPORT FOR CDTA FELLOWS



PROF. TONI WADLEY

VOICES OF SUCCESS AND TESTIMONIALS FROM COACHED FELLOWS:

"The most surprising aspect of coaching was how transformative a single conversation could be. Through the sessions I realised that within me co-existed the structure, creativity and cheekiness to emerge as only I can. The best part was seeing my progress unfold in an organic way."
Dr. Gillian Mahumane.

In our ongoing commitment to providing comprehensive support, we are pleased to introduce expanded academic support services under the expert guidance of Prof Toni Wadley. Formerly managing the CDTA programme before Lethu's arrival, Prof Wadley is extending her invaluable academic support and coaching services to empower you on your academic journey.

Here is how you can benefit:

Prof Wadley, a professionally certified coach, offers individualized, holistic coaching programmes for academics seeking personal and professional development. Many of you have already embarked on a coaching journey with Prof Wadley, experiencing first-hand the transformative power of coaching. In response to the unique challenges faced by postdocs and doctoral students, we have initiated support groups tailored to your career stage. Facilitated by Prof Wadley, these online sessions provide a platform to address career-specific challenges and foster peer mentoring relationships. Keep an eye out for calendar invites to these sessions and join us for insightful discussions and invaluable support.

Prof Wadley will be reaching out to both new and existing grant recipients to offer personalized support and check in on your progress. Whether you are a newcomer navigating the grant process or a seasoned recipient facing challenges, Prof Wadley is here to assist you. Do not hesitate to reach out via email if you require support at any stage of your grant journey.

Curious about coaching and how it can benefit you? Here is a glimpse into the transformative nature of coaching: Coaching is a collaborative, non-judgmental space designed to foster reflection and intentional growth. It empowers individuals to explore challenges, discover new perspectives, and unlock their full potential. Whether you are striving to achieve work-life balance, enhance self-care practices, navigate interpersonal conflicts, or prepare for leadership roles, coaching offers a powerful framework for personal and professional development.

Prof Wadley, accredited with the International Coaching Federation, invites you to explore whether coaching is the right fit for you. To learn more and schedule a consultation, please her on antonia.wadley@wits.ac.za

"Coaching helped me to find balance in my professional and personal life. I learnt strategies to help me cope better daily, but also longitudinally, to help me identify and sustain where to spend my energy and focus. I have better clarity in how I see my career pathway and have some tools to help me get there."
Prof. Wiedaad Slemming.