

23 March 2020

Phase Two of EDHE kicks off on a high from 24 March

Phase Two of the Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE) programme starts with a jam-packed three-day kick-off event that will be streamed live on EDHE's Facebook and YouTube channels from 24 to 26 March 2021. The programme is being launched on the theme **Entrepreneurship #AgainstAllOdds**, which recognises the continuing challenges of CoVID-19; the added uncertainties of 2021 and the toll that those could have on studentpreneurs.

Founded in 2016, the EDHE Programme is widely acknowledged in the higher education sector – as an answer to South Africa's high unemployment. The programme enters Phase Two with revised goals to **a)** equip every student and graduate for economic participation through entrepreneurial activity, with an emphasis on student women; **b)** support academics across disciplines to develop entrepreneurship through teaching, learning and research; and **c)** support universities as entrepreneurial and innovative ecosystems, which includes relevant policy development.

In the four years of its existence, EDHE, headed up by Dr Norah Clarke, successfully mobilised the 26 public universities to view entrepreneurship as a viable career path for students. That was evidenced in the buy-in from institutions when they actively participated in the various projects initiated at various stages of Phase One. Those included the annual:

- EDHE Lekgotla for leaders, academics and support professionals, the first of which was hosted in 2017;
- EDHE Executive Leadership Workshops for Deputy Vice-Chancellors and Deans started in 2020;
- EDHE Studentpreneurs Indaba in support of existing studentpreneurs;
- EDHE Entrepreneurship Intervarsity (now in its third year), aimed at identifying top student entrepreneurs and start-ups and also recognising top performers in universities' top leadership, in support of the EDHE programme;
- research projects of national significance and
- the annual EDHE Student Entrepreneurship Week (#SEW), hosted by universities to raise awareness of entrepreneurial activity as a viable means to participate in the economy.

EDHE will continue with these arrangements while introducing a new programme specifically dedicated to support female studentpreneurs. The Student Women Economic Empowerment Programme (SWEEP) will strive to economically empower student women in the face of unemployment and gender-based violence (GBV). SWEEP will be launched in the second half of 2021.



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Programme funding to date

The Department of Higher Education and Training has invested a total of R 28 999 557 in Phase Two of the programme's three-year cycle until 2023. This is a significant increase from the R18 million granted in 2018. The expanded scope in Phase Two necessitates an expansion in programme administrative staff, details of which will be announced in due course.

Registration to the Kick-off event remains open: www.edhe.co.za. Further inquiries are directed as follows:

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