STUDENT INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONALISATION HUB

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1 ISSUE 1

The Student Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Hub offers services to support student entrepreneurs, including:

- One-on-one coaching for personalized guidance
- Group sessions for idea sharing and feedback
- Webinars with industry experts for insights
- Facilitated support services for resource access

The hub aims to foster innovation and success for students at any stage of their business journey.

Who are we?

The hub consists of an amazing and qualified team from all campuses, including the Entrepreneurship Coordinator, Coaches, and the Entrepreneurship Student Ambassadors team.



Entrepreneurship Coordinator : Miss NPK Blaai

"Innovation, Entrepreneurship and International engagement are central to preparing graduates who can lead, adapt and contribute meaningfully in a global society. The newsletter reflect our enduring commitment to cultivating forward-thinking, socially responsive, and entrepreneurial students."

iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu
In pursuit of excellence

Introducing The Entrepreneurship Student Ambassadors

Introducing the SIED 16 Entrepreneurship Student Ambassadors

Allocated in various faculties to ensure that students of the institution receive high-quality support in their businesses and ideas, the Entrepreneurship Student Ambassadors also provide one-on-one sessions, advisory sessions, and recommend students for further refinements should there be a need. The institution has achieved a lot since the introduction of the Entrepreneurship Student Ambassadors.



2026 Capacity Building Workshop
Entrepreneurship Student Ambassadors



In February 2026, the Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurial Development (SIED) hosted a dynamic capacity-building workshop specifically designed for entrepreneurship student ambassadors. This enriching event aimed to **equip students with essential skills and knowledge** necessary to excel in their entrepreneurial pursuits. Throughout the workshop, participants engaged in interactive sessions, collaborative projects, and insightful discussions led by industry experts and successful entrepreneurs. The workshop emphasized key areas such as innovative thinking, effective communication, and strategic planning, providing the young ambassadors with a robust foundation for future endeavors. By fostering a supportive and inspiring environment, SIED reinforced its commitment to nurturing the next generation of entrepreneurial leaders.



Student Women Economic Empowerment Programme (SWEEP) Elects Executive



Chairperson -
Cekiso Asiphe

Deputy Chairperson -
Mashaba Unathi

Secretary -
Masia Tshimangadzo Smangaliso

Deputy Secretary -
Ngwane Aphiwe

Marketing & PR Officer
Sekobile Rethabile

Event Coordinator -
Tsebe Matsatsi

Treasurer -
Dalasile Banele

New Beginnings For The Sweep Chapter

SWEEP, the Women Economic Empowerment Program at IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu, has elected a **new executive team for the year.** This dedicated group is focused on enhancing opportunities for women in business through innovative strategies and collaboration. Their leadership aims to expand the program's impact, continuing the mission of empowering women economically and socially.

What is SWEEP?

The Student Women Economic Empowerment Programme (SWEEP) is an initiative of Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE), aimed at **equipping student women for entrepreneurial activity** in the context of gender-based violence and the underrepresentation of student women in entrepreneurship.

Student Women Economic Empowerment Programme (SWEEP) Capacity Building Workshop



Student Women Economic Empowerment Program (SWEEP) capacity building workshop The workshop covered topics like ethical leadership, team dynamics, emotional intelligence, and governance. It emphasized effective communication and conflict resolution skills, along with the EDHE program and understanding SWEEP. Additionally, it focused on women in business and the barriers they face in the economy through various developmental sessions.

Message From The Vice Chancellor



Vice Chancellor & Principal - Dr Thandi Mgwebi

‘Dear Student Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Hub Team,

A heartfelt congratulations to each one of you on the successful conclusion of your capacity-building and induction workshop for the University Executive Chapter. I firmly believe that this the beginning of a purposeful journey of leadership, innovation, and impact. Throughout this whole weekend, you have invested in building the foundations of a community that will not only nurture entrepreneurial thinking but also actively shape solutions to the complex challenges facing our society.

At iYunivesithi yethu, as you know we firmly believe that innovation and entrepreneurship are critical drivers of inclusive development, economic transformation, and sustainable futures..

As you step into your roles, I trust that you will

- Lead with courage and integrity
- Embrace creativity and bold thinking
- Foster collaboration across disciplines and communities.

You are the embodiment of our aspiration to be an impactful, technology-infused, and globally engaged African university. Your work aligns strongly with our Signature Themes — particularly in advancing Food Futures, One Health, and Leadership, Justice and Governance Futures — where innovation and entrepreneurial action are essential.

I look forward to witnessing the ideas you will bring to life and the change you will inspire. With much love, VC’

SIED Hosts A Three Day Bootcamp For The Hult Prize National Participants



An intensive three-day Bootcamp was organized from March 21-23, 2026, aimed at national participants of the Hult Prize competition. The bootcamp focused on enhancing business development acumen, honing pitching skills, and refining script development. Participants engaged in interactive sessions designed to empower them with the tools needed to excel in the competition. Expert facilitators provided valuable insights into crafting compelling business pitches, developing strategic business plans, and creating engaging scripts that effectively communicate their entrepreneurial vision. This event was an opportunity for participants to refine their ideas and learn from industry leaders, ensuring they are well-prepared for the challenges of the Hult Prize.

Green Production At the Hult Prize Nationals In Cape Town Representing Walter Sisulu



Green Production proudly represented Walter Sisulu at the national stage in Cape Town during the Hult Prize Nationals competition.

The event brought together innovative student entrepreneurs from across South Africa to showcase impactful and sustainable business ideas aimed at solving real-world challenges.

Throughout the competition, the team engaged in networking sessions, mentorship opportunities, and high level pitching competition that strengthened their entrepreneurial and leadership skills.



Representing Walter Sisulu on a national platform was a significant achievement, highlighting the university's commitment to innovation, sustainability, and youth-driven change.

ENACTUS iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu Enterprise Leaders Training



The Enactus training for IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu enterprise leaders was a transformative three-day event held from March 21-23, 2026. Hosted by Enactus' National staff, this program aimed to enhance business development skills and refine pitching techniques. Participants engaged in interactive sessions, learning to craft persuasive pitches and strategies. Expert facilitators shared insights on effectively communicating entrepreneurial visions. By the end, leaders were well-prepared to embrace Enactus' new direction in their graduate development.

Top 40 MTN Digital Innovation Challenge and FORD C3 10 ENACTUS Special Competitions



Since the first quarter of 2026, SIED studentpreneurs have been making significant strides in both national and international entrepreneurship arenas, participating in the Enactus MTN Digital Challenge **focusing on Education and GBV initiatives like THUSO and Skill Finder AI**, their efforts have been noteworthy. Furthermore, the Ford C3 Mangi Group has been shortlisted as one of the top 10 in the country.



SIED Hosts A Business Canvas Workshop In Collaboration With KORE Business Solutions

On 24 April 2026, Butterworth campus hosted an exciting business Canvas Workshop in collaboration with **KORE Business Solutions.** This workshop aimed to empower participants with tools and insights for strategic business planning and development. Attendees engaged in interactive sessions, exploring innovative approaches to creating and refining business models. The collaboration with KORE Business Solutions **promised to bring valuable expertise and real-world insights**, making it a must-attend event for aspiring entrepreneurs and business enthusiasts.



Kulanathi Senior Secondary School Career Exhibition



On the 30th of April 2026, we visited Kulanathi Senior Secondary School for Career Exhibition , since the applications are now open for many tertiary institutions. This was to encourage both Grade 11 & 12 learners to get good results, especially the matriculants, so that they can get offers from various courses, since the competition is high for admissions. University of the Free State was with us during this session, and luckily their applications are already open, so they were able to provide their prospectus and guide the learners on how to apply for courses or careers they would like to persue, through the APS. This was a success, because the learners were also engaging in such a way that we allowed them to ask questions and clarities, so that they can start applying whilst it is still early.

iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu Entrepreneurship Development HUB Studentpreneur on the DTIC Programme



Dikgabiso Letele was recommended for the Next-Gen program of the DTIC, and she was accepted for the 2025 program. She has been attending the incubation sessions, which led to her developing her prototype. After meeting further compliance requirements, she has been accepted into the pitching challenge as the next phase of the program. The hub extends its congratulatory message to Dikgabiso Letebele of Eye of Earth Skincare.

iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu Entrepreneurship Development HUB on International Programmes: Students in African Union Student Platform Initiatives



Anathi Mbhekelwa has recently been appointed as the **moderator for the Program and Speakers Committee of the International Organizing Committee of the African Union Student Platform**. This prestigious role places him at the heart of planning and executing the upcoming conference, where he will be instrumental in shaping the event's agenda and ensuring the quality of discussions.

His appointment is a testament to his leadership skills and deep understanding of student affairs, making him a valuable asset to the committee. Anathi's role will involve coordinating with speakers from diverse backgrounds,
ensuring their topics align with the conference's goals, and facilitating discussions that drive meaningful insights and actions.

With his commitment to fostering educational growth and collaboration across the continent, Anathi is poised to make a significant impact on the conference and the broader student community.



Amogelang Medupe The AUSP SDG Ambassadorship Program is an initiative that empowers students to become advocates for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Through the program, ambassadors are equipped with knowledge, leadership skills, and practical tools to drive awareness and create impact within their communities. It focuses on key areas such as sustainability, social justice, education, and innovation, encouraging young leaders to actively contribute to solving global challenges at a local level.

iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu Entrepreneurship Development HUB on International Programmes: Students in African Union Student Platform Initiatives



Tshimangadzo Masia As an IYC Ambassador, she joins a vibrant community of young leaders from all 54 African countries and the diaspora, focusing on youth diplomacy and continental development. Key responsibilities include:

- Representing IYC regionally
- Supporting youth delegates for 2026 programs in Ethiopia, South Africa, Dubai, and Ghana
- Promoting youth empowerment, innovation, and Pan-African unity
- Participating in briefings, leadership training, and dialogues

Contributing to initiatives like the Youth Investment Network and Africa–Asia Youth Platform.

Sign Up For the EDHE Innovarsity Competition to Participate



Click Here to Sign Up

Be Part Of The Change And Join The Entrepreneurship Development Programme

