



8 October 2019

Dear Colleague

Invitation to Apply for the IELOL 2020 Africa Programme

The Southern African Regional Universities Association (SARUA) has identified the digital transformation of higher education as one of its strategic focus areas. SARUA is embarking on a programme to assist the higher education community in SADC to embrace digital transformation as a means of increasing student access and success, through new modes of delivery and more enabling learning environments, while also improving service delivery and efficiency.

You have been identified as a key stakeholder and partner for the advancement of higher education digital transformation in the Southern African and sub-Saharan region. In support and recognition of the key role that you can play as an emerging leader, SARUA invites you to apply for the Institute for Emerging Leadership in Online Learning (IELOL) programme. SARUA will host this programme on the African continent for the first time in 2020, in collaboration with the Online Learning Consortium (OLC).

Now in its 11th year, the IELOL is an OLC programme that serves the development needs of emerging leaders who are responsible for digital learning initiatives in higher education. Building on the success of the IELOL internationally, SARUA is

delighted that this highly sought-after programme will now be available to participants on the African continent.

The IELOL programme is designed for staff members who are responsible for leading and supporting digital transformation and digital/blended learning initiatives within their respective institutions. IELOL participants work with colleagues from around the world to explore and understand the impact of digital learning on all aspects and formats of higher education. Thus, participants in the IELOL 2020 Africa Programme will join a growing international network of leaders that focus on improving and advancing blended and online learning, by addressing opportunities and barriers to the digital transformation (Dx) of higher education. The programme is suitable for staff members who are already in leadership roles, as well as emerging leaders who may assume leadership positions.

The inaugural IELOL Africa Programme consists of the following components:

- ❑ A three-week Pre-Immersion Online programme, from 23 April 2020 to 01 May 2020.
- ❑ An immersion week at the University of the Western Cape, in Cape Town, South Africa, from 11-15 May 2020.
- ❑ A post-immersion project from 22 June to 16 July 2020, leading to a presentation by each participant to their institutional leadership.

In addition, participants are encouraged to:

- ❑ Attend the OLC IELOL master class workshop as well as the annual OLC international conference in Orlando, Florida during November 2020.
- ❑ Join the *Digital Transformation in Higher Education (Dx@HE)* community of practice, hosted and facilitated by the SARUA digital transformation strategic focus area. Please complete this [online form](#) to register your interest in such a community.

- ❑ Participate in professional development opportunities facilitated by SARUA through its network of higher education partners and collaborators.
- ❑ Collaborate with colleagues from the SADC higher education sector concerning digital transformation in the Southern African and Sub-Saharan Africa region through annual networking events coordinated and hosted by SARUA.

To apply please visit the OLC website at:

<https://onlinelearningconsortium.org/learn/ielol-sarua/>

Applications must be received at the latest by 2 December 2019 to be considered. Individuals who are accepted to participate in the IELOL Africa 2020 Programme will receive an email notifying them of their acceptance by 30 December 30, 2019.

For any enquiries, please contact Phiwokuhle.Kgatla@sarua.org.

We trust that you will consider applying to attend the IELOL Africa 2020 and join the SARUA digital transformation community!

Kind regards



Prof Martin J Oosthuizen
SARUA Executive Director