

## EASA CHAIRPERSON REPORT 2024



Dear EASA members,

What a great honour it has been to serve as Chairperson of EASA in 2024! It is hard to believe that almost six months have passed since our annual at Sun City. I am deeply grateful to the University of Pretoria (UP) for hosting the 2025 EASA Conference. Special recognition goes to Prof. Funke Omidire, the conference chairperson and EASA Executive Committee member, and her team for their tireless dedication in organising the conference. Special thanks also go to the conference administrators Narina Basson and

Marian Louw from Event Behella for their valuable support. Their combined efforts created an outstanding platform for knowledge exchange under the theme ***“LEARNING ON THE RISING TIDES: INSPIRATIONAL APPROACHES TO EDUCATION, CREATIVITY, HARMONIOUS COLLABORATION, AND DEEPER SOCIAL CONNECTIONS”***. The conference enabled diverse scholarly presentations, engaging discussions, shared learning, and the forging of meaningful connections among delegates. The EASA awards were presented during a special ceremony, recognising excellence and dedication within our academic community.

As we reflect on the thirty (30) years of democracy in South Africa, EASA has made significant strides in advancing education nationwide through research aligned with both national and continental development objectives. Our Association’s activities – including the annual conference, Special Interest Groups webinars, and the South African Journal of Education (SAJE), our internationally accredited journal – provide a robust platform for scholars in Education. These activities are aligned with Agenda 2063’s aspiration for a transformed education system across Africa. EASA is proudly affiliated with the World Education Research Association (WERA), which provides our members with valuable access to extensive Doctoral and Early Career (DEC) networks across the globe. In July 2024, I had the honour of serving as a WERA keynote speaker at CIMIE Congress (Congreso Internacional Multidisciplinar de Investigación Educativa (translation: Multidisciplinary International Conference on Educational Research) held in Spain – an opportunity that highlights the global relevance and impact of our work.

The Association’s continued success is a testament to the collaborative spirit of our member members and partners. We extend our sincere appreciation to the Executive Committee for their dedication and strategic leadership across various portfolios, as reported in this newsletter. We warmly welcome Dr Eugene Machimana as our incoming Chairperson and Newsletter coordinator. Dr. Tony Mpisi now leads our Special Interest Group (SIGs), bringing fresh energy to revitalise these vital scholarly forums. Prof Maximus Sefotho continues on the important portfolio of Internationalization and Postgraduate Student Development, while Prof. Elize du Plessis resumes her role as coordinator of the EASA website – a position she has successfully held in the past. We also acknowledge the valuable contribution of Prof Micheal van Wyk’s contribution as an additional member of the EASA Executive Committee and is working closely with Dr Mpisi to strengthen and expand the work of our SIGs.

Our international standing is strengthening through our membership in the World Education Research Association (WERA), with Prof Ruth Mampame representing EASA on the WERA Council. We warmly welcome Dr. Marisa Leask as our WERA-DEC Representative. Prof, Johnnie Hay, our dedicated

secretary, we remain grateful for your insight and leadership in the association. We are equally proud of Prof. Ronel Ferreira and her team for maintaining the South African Journal of Education (SAJE) as a leading internationally accredited journal in education research in Africa. Additionally, Prof. Raj Mestry continues his exceptional stewardship of the association's finances as Treasurer.

I am very delighted to welcome Prof. Candice Livingstone as EASA's Chairperson for 2025 and wish her every success in this important role. I look forward to staying connected and hope to see many of you at our next annual conference in 2026.

Khotso!

Warm regards,

Prof Fumane Portia Khanare

2024 EASA Chairperson