

A Word of Welcome from Professor Albert Modi

Hello amazing people! You are wonderful because you chose UKZN!

I welcome you to UKZN. This is one of the oldest universities in South Africa. It was established in 1949 as the University of Natal and in 1972 another component of this university, the University of Durban Westville was established. In 2004, the University of Natal and the University of Durban Westville merged to form UKZN. Thus the University has been in existence for more than 70 years. We have many years of experience. We have produced many leaders, managers and great scientists over this period of time.

Today UKZN is located on five different campuses in Pietermaritzburg and Durban. It is one of the 26 universities in South Africa. It is one of more than 17 000 universities in the world. It is ranked in the top 5% of all the world universities and the top five universities in South Africa. Our mission is to be, "A truly South African university of choice that is academically excellent, innovative in research, entrepreneurial, and critically engaged with society." We have lived up to this mission. We are a research-led university.

The College of Agriculture Engineering and Science has five different Schools organised according to areas of specialisation and located on three of the five university campuses. These are:

- School of Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences
- School of Chemistry and Physics
- School of Engineering
- School of Life Sciences, and
- School of Mathematics, Statistics and Computers Science

We have lecturers and professors from all over South Africa and all the continents of the world. We produce excellent students who become scientists, engineers, managers, government officials and many end up owning their own companies. Yes, there are many students who fail to complete their degrees. The secret to the success of those who complete and move on with a better life is commitment. A university is not a school. There are no teachers who follow your work performance every day. There are lecturers and professors who inspire you to work and think independently. If you work hard and focus from day one, you will complete your degree in record time and even get opportunities to study for a postgraduate qualification at Honours, Masters and Doctoral levels, so that you have a BSc, MSc and PhD as your qualifications.

South Africa has a great need for scientists to solve national and global challenges. For example, the world has a challenge of global warming which affects our environment and our ability to produce adequate nutritious food to feed more than seven billion people and the numbers are increasing every year. We need agricultural and environmental scientists who can come up with modern technologies to produce new types of crops that can withstand drought while accumulating high levels of nutrients. We need people with a deep sense of knowledge about how plants and animals interact. That way we can protect our environment. We need chemists who can work with medical scientists to produce new drugs to fight against diseases and pests. We need engineers and data scientists. By choosing the College of Agriculture Engineering and Science, you can be any one of these and learn about many more at the same time. You can be a champion of industrial revolution in a global sense.

Thank you for choosing the College of Agriculture Engineering and Science at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. This is a university with values of respect, excellence, accountability, honesty and trust. You can trust us to give you an excellent education. We can trust you to be our excellent students

and future alumni that we are proud of. Please get more information about UKZN by exploring this website. I wish you all the best during your studies at this university.

Professor Albert Modi

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science