



RESEARCH AND INNOVATION DAY 2025

SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION

FACULTY OF NATURAL SCIENCES, WSU

12 SEPTEMBER 2025

Proponent: Albert Modi (Executive Dean)

Project leader: Dr Njabulo Joyfull Gumede (FNS Innovation Committee Representative)

THIS IS A UCDG PROJECT FUNDED BY DLT



PROJECT 4: RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

UCDP Focus Area 2	Staff Development
Project Name:	
Research and Innovation Capacity Development	
Project Leader	
First name and Surname	Batsirai Magunje
Portfolio	Chairperson, Faculty Research Committee (FNSRC)
Current position	Senior Lecturer
Email address	bmagunje@wsu.ac.za
Project Member	
Title, First name and Surname	Ayedola Oyedeji
Portfolio	Member, WSU EWIRA (Empowering Women in Research Affiliation)
Current position	Professor
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Project Member	
Title, First name and Surname	Rekha Panicker
Department or Unit	Faculty Representative, WSU EWIRA (Empowering Women in Research Affiliation)
Current position	Senior Lecturer
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Project Member	
First name and Surname	Raymond Taziwa
Portfolio	Leader, WSU Renewable Energy Research Niche Area and HOD (Applied Sciences)
Current position	Senior Lecturer
Email address	rtaziwa@wsu.ac.za
Project Member	
First name and Surname	Winter Sinkala



OBJECTIVES

Showcase ongoing research and innovation projects

(I would like RNA leaders; Directors/PI of NPL, Marine Biology Lab, CGC to identify their roles by mid-next week).

2. Promote interdisciplinary collaboration

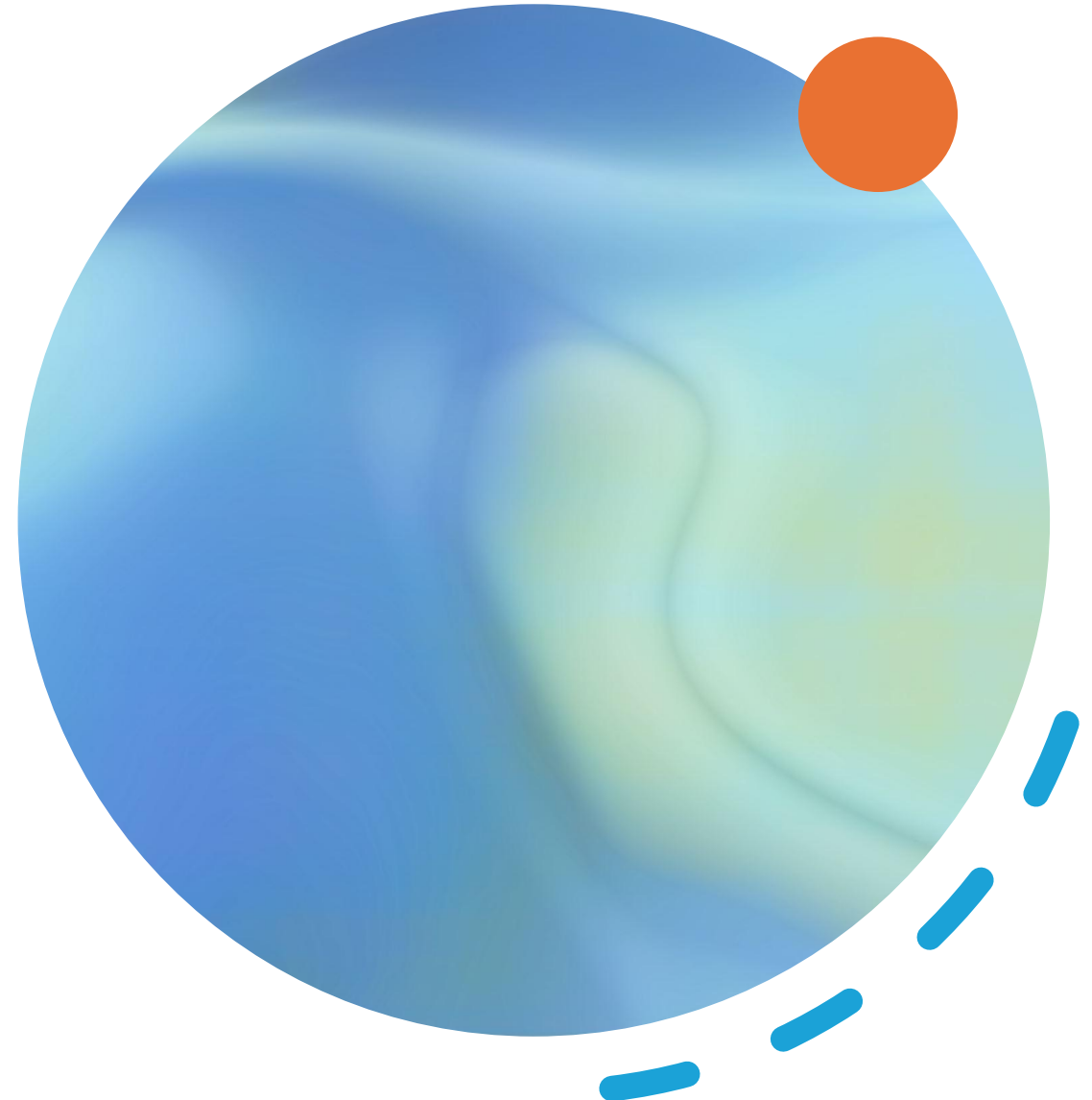
(This could be a 5-minute talk by the Executive Dean, using his monthly bulletins as a basis of a case study).

3. Encourage student and staff participation

(This can be covered under the first bullet; additionally, we need lab assistants and postgraduate students who can showcase their work/skills, e.g. demonstration of equipment – physical or AI demonstration).

4. Engage external stakeholders (industry, government, community)

[BCC/Applied Sciences are best placed with regards to Industry; NMD could invite District/Local Municipality]



PLANNING COMMITTEE

Project leader

Dr Njabulo Gumede (CPS)

2. Research & Innovation Directorate

(We must have contact person)

3. Departments

(Covered under objectives, but offer space to other people to showcase what they do)

4. Marketing and Communications

(Anita Roji)



LOGISTICS AND SUPPORT



Registration system



(Before: registration of faculty role players; external stakeholders; students; other participants - publicise online. During: attendance; publicise online; After: publication online, FNS Newsletter, Annual



Technical support for presentations and exhibitions



(Faculty Official leads DLT support access).



Catering, signage, and accessibility arrangements



(Faculty Official leads DLT support access).



KEY ACTIVITIES

1. Opening Ceremony

- Welcome address by leadership (e.g., Director Research; Dean).
- Keynote speaker from academia, industry, or government.

KEY ACTIVITIES

2. Innovation Showcase

Exhibits of prototypes, products, and creative works.

Posters and digital displays.

KEY ACTIVITIES

3. FNS Flagships

Topics like research funding, publishing, ethics, commercialization.

(Rekha Panicker; Ade Oyedeji; Motebang Nakin; Thembinkosi Dlaza; Winter Sinkala; Cristina Toma; Raymond Taziwa)

Industry and public sector/community engagements.

KEY ACTIVITIES

4. Student Engagement

Innovation pitch challenge
by postgraduate students
and postgrads.

KEY ACTIVITIES

5. Awards and Recognition

Best presentation, best poster, innovation awards.

Certificates for participation and contribution.