



**Media Statement
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For Immediate Release

SMU Deputy Vice Chancellor earns a C rating from the National Research Foundation

The Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University is elated to announce that its Deputy Vice Chancellor responsible for Teaching, Learning and Community Engagements, Professor Eunice Seekoe has recently been awarded a C rating by the National Research Foundation.

This NRF C rating category means that she is recognised as an established researcher with a sustained recent record of productivity in her field. The rating further denotes recognition from her peers as having produced a body of quality work, the core of which has coherence and attests to ongoing engagement in the field of focus.

Prof Seekoe's work is about mentoring health professionals and leaders. "My research area focused on developing competencies, building capacity and empowerment of health professionals and leaders. I developed a model for mentoring health professionals and leaders, which has been used to develop and implement programmes for newly appointed employees, students at undergraduate and post graduate levels", said Prof Seekoe.

Her model is currently used in developing health executive leaders in a specific programme of Albertina Sisulu Executive Leadership in Health (ASELPH) in the 9 Provinces across the country.

Through her research work, Prof Eunice Seekoe supervised to completion 33 Masters Students and 8 PhD's and published 52 papers and continues to present papers in local and international conferences.

"The university is very proud to have an accomplished and consummate researcher like Professor Seekoe and this goes to demonstrate the quality of academics and executive management that SMU has. Her knowledge and passion about health issues will help SMU in its pursuit to produce quality professionals for the country", says Dr Eric Pule, SMU Director of Marketing and Communication.

The NRF ratings are normally allocated based on a researcher's recent outputs and impact as perceived by international peer reviewers and those awarded are expected to impart cutting edge skills and knowledge to the next generation of researches.

Issued by the Marketing & Communication

For more details, please contact Dr Eric Pule, email address eric.pule@smu.ac.za

Phone 012 521 4563 Cell: 0635035587

Website: www.smu.ac.za