

Conference theme: Origin to AI

South African Supplemental Instruction National Online Conference 2025

1 - 3 December 2025 | Online Microsoft Teams

Conference Programme

NELSON MANDELA
UNIVERSITY

 **NWU**[®]
NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY
NOORDWES-UNIVERSITEIT
YUNIBESITHI YA BOKONE-GOPHIRIMA

Monday, 1 December 2025

Time	Programme item	Presenter
09:00 - 09:15	Opening and Welcome	Ms. Liesl Smith (NMU); Dr. Charl Nel (NWU)
09:15 - 10:00	SI National Advisory Board Introduction	SI Advisory Board members *
10:05 - 10:35	An Analysis of How SI Leaders Navigate Bias against Diversity in a Learning Environment	Ms. Agnes Mohale (UL)
10:40 - 11:10	Mixed Reality Simulation as a Training Environment for SI Leaders	Prof Carisma Nel; Dr Charl Nel (NWU)
11:10 - 11:30	Comfort Break	
11:30 - 12:00	The Hidden Burden: Understanding Academic Stress Among Peer Academic Facilitators at a University in the Eastern Cape.	Ms. Khanyisa Mabece (UFH)
12:05 - 12:35	Launching an end-to-end online Supplemental Instruction programme: The case of a distance education institution in South Africa	Mr. Lekau Rachidi; Ms. Ziyanda Febana; Ms. Treasure Thipe (UNISA)
12:40 - 13:10	Supplementary Instruction and peer learning best practices in accounting education at South African higher learning institutions	Dr. Nosihle Veronica Sithole (CUT)
13:10 - 13:50	Lunch Break	
13:50 - 14:30	Discussion: Professional Development of SI staff	Chair: Liesl Smith (NMU)
14:35 - 15:05	Exploring the Influence of Interactive Learning Environments and Personalized Academic Support on STEM Students' Attendance of Supplemental Instruction (SI) Sessions at a University	Mr. Nkosinathi Humphrey Xulu (UKZN)
15:10 - 15:30	Comfort Break	
15:30 - 16:00	Exploring AI to Support SI Leader Observation Feedback for Reflection and Growth	Dr. Francesca Nesfield (University of Arizona, USA)

Tuesday, 2 December 2025

Time	Programme item	Presenter
09:00 - 10:00	SI Leader Panel	Chair: Dr Charl Nel (NWU)
10:05 - 10:35	Empowering Senior Tutors in New Tutors Training: A Collaborative Approach to Peer Facilitator Development	Ms. Motshedisi Sitole (UFS)
10:40 - 11:10	Embedding 21st-Century Competencies in Supplemental Instruction Training: Insights from the University of Venda	Dr. Siphon Hlabane; Mr. Lethabo Letsoalo (University of Venda)
11:10 - 11:30	Comfort Break	
11:30 - 12:00	Exploring Perspectives from SI Leaders, Students, and Academics on AI in SI	Dr. Charl Nel (NWU)
12:05 - 12:35	Implementation and Establishment of Supplemental Instruction (SI) at Universities and University Colleges in Norway and Sweden	Prof. Joakim Malm (Lund University, Sweden)
12:35 - 13:00	Poster Engagement: Supplemental Instruction: A snapshot of students' experiences in a peer-led and interactive academic support in an online learning environment	Ms. Treasure Thipe; Mr. Lekau Rachidi; Ms. Ziyanda Febana (UNISA)
13:00 - 13:45	Lunch Break	
13:45 - 14:25	Discussion: SI and Multilingual Policy	Chair: Liesl Smith (NMU)

14:30 - 16:00	Workshop: How do we optimize the core of the supervisor's work – training and support for SI Leaders	Prof. Joakim Malm (Lund University, Sweden); Ms. Liesl Smith (NMU)
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Wednesday, 3 December 2025

Time	Programme item	Presenter
09:00 - 09h40	Discussion: Starting and reviving SI programmes	Chair: Ms. Liesl Smith (NMU)
09:45 - 10:15	Insights in the implementation of Technology-enhanced Supplemental Instruction (SI): Case of the University of South Africa	Ms. Mudanagundo Rakgase (UNISA)
10:20 - 10:50	Repositioning Tutorship as a Catalyst for Student Success: The Faculty of Education's Integration of the Walter Sisulu University (WSU) Tutorship Programme (2024–2025)	Mr. Sabelo R. Peter; Mr. Sinovuyo Nyanga; Ms. Nikho Fayindlala; Mr. Yanga Mdumayi (WSU)
10:50 - 11:10	Comfort Break	
11:10 - 11:40	Exploring SI Leaders, Students, and Academics' perspectives on the Effectiveness of the Supplemental Instruction (SI) Programme at a university in South Africa	Dr. Charl Nel (NWU)
11:45 - 12:15	From Pilot to Possibility? Reimagining Supplemental Instruction (SI) in African ODeL Contexts	Ms. Ziyanda Febana; Mr. Lekau Rachidi; Ms. Treasure Thipe (UNISA)
12:20 - 13:00	Discussion: AI and Technology	Chair: Dr. Charl Nel (NWU)
13:00 -13:40	Lunch Break	
13:40 -14:10	Study on development of transferable skills for first year participants in SI-PASS programmes	Prof. Joakim Malm (Lund University, Sweden)
14:15 -14:30	Conference closure and evaluations	Ms. Liesl Smith (NMU)

* SI Advisory Board Members: Ms. Liesl Smith (NMU, SI National Office Africa); Dr. Philip Kitching (NMU, SI National Office Africa); Dr. Charl Nel (NWU, SI Regional Office South Africa); Dr. Vinodhani Paideya (UKZN); Mr. Lekau Rachidi (UNISA); Ms. Evodia Mohoanyane (UFS)

CUT = Central University of Technology

NMU = Nelson Mandela University

NWU = North-West University

UFH = University of Fort Hare

UFS = University of the Free State

UKZN = University of KwaZulu-Natal

UL = University of Limpopo

UNISA – University of South Africa

WSU = Walter Sisulu University