Our Value Proposition

Collectively leading the application of digital capabilities to transform Higher Education in South Africa.

Company overview

Higher Education Information Technology South Africa (HEITSA) is a non-profit company (NPC), registered as a Public Benefit Organisation (PBO). HEITSA represents the 26 public universities in South Africa. HEITSA provides mutual support mechanisms to all participating institutions by encouraging the development and application of standards and best practices through the sharing of expertise among the community.

Vision and mission

The HEITSA vision and mission are as follows:

Vision

Leaders in the ICT enablement of South African Higher Education.

Mission

Advances the goals of South African Higher Education through the innovative use of ICT.

Our purpose

HEITSA's purpose is collectively leading the application of digital capabilities to transform Higher Education in South Africa. It endeavors to do so, by means of the following three objectives:

Promote and advance the support of Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

The governance and application of ICT has become a strategic pillar in the digital transformation and improvement efforts of organisations. This is particularly relevant in the Higher Education sector.

Promote professional skills and conduct

A critical component for digital improvement as well as transformation is ensuring that the ICT teams are adequately skilled to navigate the challenges of the sector. Emerging and disruptive technologies further renders timeous re-skilling of ICT teams an absolute necessity.

Serve as unitary voice for the South African Higher Education IT Profession

The challenges of the South African Higher Education sector are unique, and benefit could be derived from a consolidated and coordinated voice for the sector.

To achieve these objectives, the following four pillars have been formed to incorporate the strategic goals and initiatives of the association.

COLLABORATION

Facilitating working together to combine collective experience and knowledge for the benefit of the entire community.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Providing opportunities to develop required skills and interventions to support achieving the goals of the participating institutions.

COST EFFECTIVENESS

Leveraging aggregate numbers and collective bargaining power to improve cost effectiveness.

RESOURCE SHARING

Providing common services and resources identified by benchmarking data and the requirements of the sector.

Goals and initiatives in support of pillars

The following high-level goals and initiatives for ASAUDIT were identified and captured as depicted below.

COLLABORATION

▸ Arrange meetings and events to network with peers.
▸ Provide platforms to share knowledge, e.g. websites, peer-to-peer conversations, online forums and physical events.
▸ Support Special Interest Groups which have specific purpose and documented terms of reference.
▸ Co-ordinate co-funded projects between universities.
▸ Include relevant university stakeholders to ensure improved communication.
▸ Engage with external stakeholders to explore collaboration opportunities

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

▸ Arrange appropriate skills development opportunities, including technical and managerial.
▸ Advance relevant management and leadership skills needed to navigate the sector.
▸ Co-ordinate study tours to various organisations.
▸ Facilitate coaching, mentorship and knowledge transfer across the sector.
▸ Support common grant funding applications across the sector.
▸ Support new CIO's and IT directors joining the sector with their onboarding journey.

COST EFFECTIVENESS

▸ Negotiate beneficial contracts with vendors on behalf of all South African universities.
▸ Raise sponsorship for events and meetings to reduce the financial burden on individual universities.
▸ Promote best practices for procurement activities. These include, but are not limited to academic pricing, participating in nationally negotiated academic contracts, etc.

RESOURCE SHARING

▸ Advocate benchmarking practices across the sector to provide universities with a point of reference around specific areas.
▸ Promote shared services across universities to avail capabilities which are not readily available.
▸ Provide mechanisms to avail common resources to the wider community.
▸ Research areas that are of common interest to institutions.
▸ Investigate mechanisms to share expertise between institutions.
▸ Provide blueprints for frameworks, policies and models that work in the South African as well as international context.