

# PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES

The Universities Careers Forum has been coordinated through the South African Graduate Employers Association (SAGEA) for more than 20 years.

As the forum has continued to evolve, so has the need to introduce more structure in terms of professional learning, best practice and professional standards.

To this end, SAGEA and SACDA engaged on the establishment of a Professional Learning Community (PLC) for career development for the higher education sector.

While we have been focused on the basic education sector, we recognise this PLC as an important step in better addressing the career disjoint between basic and higher education, and industry.

We thank SAGEA for over 20 years of unyielding commitment to supporting quality careers services in the higher education sector. We wish SAGEA well in its continued endeavours.

We, as a collective, are eager for enhanced collaboration in advancing the profession of career development practice in higher education in South Africa next year.

We will also be exploring the SAGEA Graduate Development and Learning Pathway Programme (SGDLPP), by Dr Kate Daubney (seasoned UK career practitioner) as a potential value-add to the Universities Careers PLC, expected to be launched in February 2026.



We are also proud to announce that Ms Cathy Sims has graciously accepted to lead in the Universities Careers PLC for a period of 6 months from February 2026.

This support has been made possible, as Cathy now retires as founder and CEO of SAGEA, after more than 20 years of service! Well Done!

Under Cathy's stewardship, several mechanisms were established to shape best practice in talent development, such as the Employer Benchmarking and Candidate Insights surveys for understanding the graduate employment market in South Africa, and the Graduate Development and Retention Study that is shaping best practice for nurturing early talent beyond recruitment.

We are confident that through the leadership of Cathy, the foundations of the Universities Careers PLC will be well grounded in preparation for optimal growth of the next PLC going forward.

<https://sagea.org.za/honouring-leadership-and-legacy-Cathy-sims-retires>