

# Prof Ntate Dan Kgwadi

Dan Kgwadi was born on 28 July 1967 at Kraaipan Village in the North West Province of South Africa. He served as the first campus rector of the North-West University, Mafikeng Campus, which is one of three campuses established through the merger of the erstwhile Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education (140 years) and the University of the North-West (30 years).

Prof Kgwadi started his term as campus rector on 1 January 2005 and in April 2014 assumed the position of vice-chancellor of the North-West University, the most senior management role at the NWU.

His leadership has been most profound. As the Mafikeng Campus rector, Prof Kgwadi guided the campus through the many challenges of transformation and a fundamentally changing environment.

With unwavering determination, he steered the campus through the changes and facilitated its transformation to a stable and diverse entity with a vibrant academic and student life, as well as financial stability. Drawing on his considerable management skills, he established good relations and partnerships for the campus locally and internationally.

His career reveals a deep commitment to academic excellence, community service and partnerships with the public sector and industry. He is passionate about empowering and motivating underprivileged youth, and has personally sponsored the college and university education of a number of students.

Prior to his appointment as campus rector, Prof Kgwadi served as a senior manager/assessment coordinator at the National Nuclear Regulator; head of the Physics department at the Vaal University of Technology; lecturer and head of the Physics department at the University of North-West, and research and teaching assistant at Ball State University. He started his career as a physics teacher at Phatsima high school.

He remains passionate about teaching and mentoring budding academics and leaders. In spite of his tight schedule as campus rector, he continued to teach a first-year physics class over the years.

He has been the recipient of various scholarships and awards. Early on in his academic life, he obtained the Educational Opportunities Council scholarship (EOC), the United Nations scholarship and a work-study scholarship (Ball State University) to pursue his physics studies in the USA. While at Ball State, in recognition of his high scholarship in physics, he was admitted to the sigma-pi-sigma honour society.

Prof Kgwadi has been a member of numerous professional bodies and chaired the education sub-group of the South African Institute of Physics (SAIP). He supervised and served as an external examiner to master's and PhD students in the fields of physics education and radiation physics.

He was appointed to the Umalusi Council (the body responsible for setting and monitoring standards for general and further education in South Africa), and serves as chairperson of the Assessment Standard Committee. Prof Kgwadi is also a member of the Royal Institution of Great Britain.

His academic credentials are extensive and he has the following degrees: BSc (physics and chemistry, University of Bophuthatswana, RSA); MSc (physics, Ball State University, USA); MPhil (environmental law and management, University of the North, RSA); PhD (Physics Education, PU for CHE, RSA); PhD (management – honoris causa– Hanseo University, South Korea).

On 22 November 2013, the NWU Council announced Prof Kgwadi's appointment as the next vice-chancellor of the North-West University. He took up this position on 1 April 2014, for a period of six years.