

NEWSLETTER

Cornerstone
Learn to change the world

EDITION:3



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www.cornerstone.ac.za



SAWUBONA

Welcome to the Third-quarter edition of the Cornerstone Institute newsletter! We're excited to connect with you again. We aim to provide engaging content highlighting our dedication to education, innovation, and community impact.

We look forward to sharing many more informative and inspiring updates with you in the future!



www.cornerstone.ac.za



Basier Dramat
Chief Executive Officer

A Word from the CEO

I want to recognise the outstanding work each of you contributes to Cornerstone Institute as we officially launch the 2025 recruitment season. Our work is more than just a job; our mission is to shape lives, foster potential, and impact students' futures.

This time of the year is significant as we open our doors to new students and point them toward future leadership. The passion you put into your work keeps this institution strong, and the same dedication will take us through this season of recruitment.

What do I hope for this season? It's simple: I hope we continue to inspire. In the process, we need to show each prospective and current student at Cornerstone, a community that will nurture their growth, challenge them, and equip them to face the world in times to come. I hope we continue to stand out as a place of academic and personal transformation.

Meeting these goals requires all of us to work together with clarity and commitment. I encourage you to continue your hard work, collaborate across departments, and support each other. Our collective efforts across all departments are interconnected, and together, we can achieve incredible things.



MEET OUR INNOVATION AND ADVANCEMENT DEPARTMENT



IAD

The department's mission is to drive innovative solutions, stakeholder engagement and advocacy and achieve strategic goals through a blend of creativity, strategic partnerships, and progressive solutions.

The Department of Innovation and Advancement develops and manages innovative solutions that automate and streamline processes within the organisation, with the aim of enhancing efficiency and productivity. The development of a staff portal and various applications such as the Claims Application is an example of this

By maintaining and nurturing relationships with external stakeholders, the department seeks to advance the mission and vision of Cornerstone Institution, ensuring the Institution stays connected with its community of partners in an ever changing environment and remains at the forefront of our field. Continuously seeking external solutions that bring added value to our organisation keeps us competitive and forward-thinking.

This team is also in the process of creating and managing effective alumni relations systems, fostering a strong and supportive community that contributes to the ongoing success of the institution. Additionally, the team manages short courses as an alternative income stream, providing valuable educational opportunities while supporting the financial health of Cornerstone institute.

This department is crucial in driving the advocacy through its participation in initiatives such as the Critical Dialogue initiative as well as other strategic initiatives that propel the institution forward.

The Innovation and Advancement Department is committed to innovation, excellence, and building a brighter future for the Cornerstone community.

IAD

MEET OUR INNOVATION AND ADVANCEMENT DEPARTMENT



Thulani Dube
Head Of Department



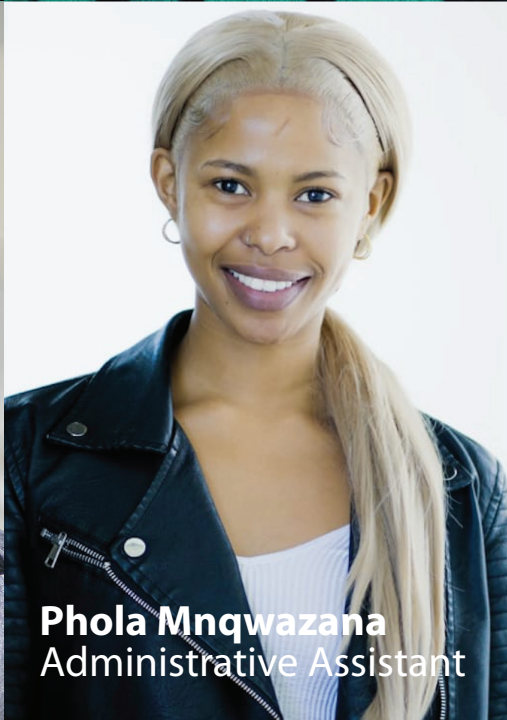
Asisipho Maliwa
Project Assistant



Cassandra Fatouros
Project Assistant



Lindiwe Magagula
Intern



Phola Mngwazana
Administrative Assistant



Matthew McGregor
Intern



THE PEOPLE OF CORNERSTONE

I N S T I T U T E

Reitumetse Mofana
Accreditation and
Compliance Coordinator



Reitumetse Mofana is the Accreditation and Compliance Coordinator at Cornerstone Institute. Her inherent curiosity and attention to detail sparked her passion for this role. "This natural tendency towards maintaining structure seamlessly translated into accreditation. I find fulfillment in ensuring rigorous processes are followed to uphold quality standards in education. Witnessing graduates achieve qualifications that significantly impact their academic and economic futures reinforces the value and importance of my role in promoting worthwhile academic offerings," Reitumetse shares.

Balancing personal interests with professional responsibilities comes naturally to Reitumetse, as her role aligns closely with her traits and interests. "My natural curiosity and attention to detail, which I've always valued in my personal life, directly contribute to my effectiveness in ensuring order and consistency in academic accreditation. This connection allows me to find fulfillment in both areas—personally, in my satisfaction with maintaining structure, and professionally, in promoting quality academic offerings through adherence to compliance standards."

Reflecting on her time at Cornerstone, Reitumetse describes it as enriching. "Every encounter I've had has been impactful, with each person bringing a wealth of knowledge and institutional memory that highlights their commitment and pride in their roles within the CI community. As I continue to engage further, I look forward to experiencing specific moments that will undoubtedly positively impact my personal and professional journey."

People of Cornerstone - the incredible individuals
shaping our Cornerstone community!

Welcome Aboard!

Join us in warmly welcoming our newest colleagues at Cornerstone Institute! We're excited to have them on board as we continue to grow and innovate together.



Charmaine Manuel
Lecturer (Theology)



Xabiso Mnyengeza
Student Recruitment
Officer (Marketing)



Marlene Stephanie Petersen
Lecturer (Education)



Siyabonga Hloni Mbobo
Lecturer (Education)



Alumni Stories

Overcoming Challenges and Finding Community | Linda Menezes's Journey

My journey with Cornerstone began in 2023 with a clear goal in mind: I wanted to pass this certificate cum laude. However, I underestimated the intensity of the workload that awaited me. Having completed my BA Hons in Psychological Counseling at the University of South Africa, I thought this program would be easier than my honors degree. The PGCE program was anything but that. The program was well-structured and challenged me academically and personally, preparing me for the real world and the realities teachers face daily. It required me to become more organized and challenge my habits. I was curious to learn more, which led me to ask countless questions. Nonetheless, my lecturers and fellow students were very patient and helpful.

I completed the Post Graduate Certificate specializing in the Foundation Phase in just one year. Throughout my journey, the support and assistance of my lecturers and fellow students were invaluable. I formed friendships and gained a community. At the beginning of the semester, my peers nominated me as a class representative. I facilitated communication between students and lecturers. Looking back, it was a challenging yet rewarding experience that I am proud to have accomplished. With my PGCE, I have more options and opportunities open for me. Currently, I am an IC lecturer and tutor. This role is rewarding, and I am very passionate about it.

I want to express my gratitude to my loving and supportive husband and my boys, aged 4 and 10, for being patient and supporting me throughout my studies. When I had classes, they would make dinner and pick up the slack. Being a mom and studying is difficult, but having a support system makes all the difference. I created a support group for the "Super Moms" studying PGCE on WhatsApp, and we guided and lifted each other when the days got long.

I have been living with epilepsy since I was a teenager and made a small WhatsApp group for learners with disabilities. At first, most students were apprehensive, and I urge all students to reach out to like-minded individuals and form support groups. To all students, whether you are working and studying, or a mom and studying, or living with disabilities and studying, this is achievable. Do not procrastinate and put your mind to the mission at hand; you will come out the other side better, and be prepared for the realities you will face when you apply yourself.

To the Super Moms, your children are looking up to you, you are a role model, and they are watching your perseverance and achieving your goals. To the learners living with disabilities, you are proof that our disabilities do not influence our IQ. I wish you ALL the best of luck; you've got this!

"The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires." – William Arthur Ward.

A detailed botanical illustration of various plants, including large dark purple flowers, green fern-like leaves, and reddish-brown leaves, set against a dark blue background.

CRITICAL
DIALOGUES

<https://cornerstone.ac.za/>

Quarter 3 Rewind /// Our Events

Critical Dialogues | Strengthening the Role
of the Private Higher Education Sector for
Youth Development

On June 26, Cornerstone Institute hosted a critical dialogue on "Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education for All: Strengthening the Role of the Private Higher Education Sector for Youth Development." The event gathered industry leaders to discuss challenges and opportunities in the private higher education sector.

Panelists included Dr. Marianne Louw (Cornerstone Institute), Dr. Cobus Oosthuizen (Boston City Campus), Dr. Shirly Lloyd (APPETD), Mr. Omolemo Tihapane (SRC President), with Zizipho Dyubeni (Cornerstone Institute) moderating.

Critical discussions centered on aligning programs with market needs, ensuring quality and compliance, securing funding for underprivileged students, and addressing unregistered institutions. The dialogue underscored the need for innovation, collaboration, and adaptability to strengthen the sector's role in expanding access to education.

The complete discussion is available on YouTube (@Cornerstone_Institute).





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THE CORNERSTONE
CONFERENCE 2024



On July 17th, Cornerstone Institute held The Cornerstone Conference, which explored the theme "Higher Education (HE) in a Changing World: How Do Shifting Contexts Influence Our Work in HE, and How Should We Respond to Them?" Reflecting on the conference, Dr. Marianne, Executive Dean, and Academic Head at Cornerstone Institute, emphasized the need for adaptation in the face of rapid change: "Higher education institutions have historically been centers of intellectual discourse, but with the accelerating pace of change, we must reconsider how we fulfill our scholarly roles. As we engage in these critical discussions, we must draw on collective wisdom and expertise to create a more resilient, equitable, and impactful higher education system that can meet the challenges of both today and tomorrow."

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who submitted abstracts, delivered presentations, and contributed to the vibrant discussions.

