



**Dipane Hlalele** matriculated with exemption from Dikwena High School in 1984. He obtained the following qualifications: BAEd (1991, University of the North-Qwaqwa Branch); BEd (1995, University of the Free State); MEd (1998, University of the Free State); PhD (2003, University of the Free State); Certificate in Agriculture (2003, Glen College of Agriculture); MA (2008, University of the Free State). His teaching career began at Nkhubiso High School; he lectured at Sefikeng College of Education and was appointed Senior Lecturer in Psychology of Education at the University of the Free State, Qwaqwa campus in 2004 and is currently Assistant Dean in the Faculty of Education.

He has presented papers at several national and international conferences, was Visiting Professor at Seton Hall University (USA) in July 2011 and was Guest Researcher in the Rural research cluster at the Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala, in 2013.

He was honoured in lieu of *Consistent Academic Service* at the UFS, Qwaqwa campus and received the SULE award for the best ever publication output in the Faculty of Education at the UFS in the 2012 academic year, concluded the 2012 academic year as the fourth top researcher at the UFS and received the Vice Rector's award for Community Engaged Research in 2014.

His research interests include sustainable rural learning ecologies for which he holds the National Research Foundation grant for the period 2014-2016; HIV/AIDS curriculum integration, and community engagement for which he served as co-investigator in the CESL (2013-214) research project.

Contact: [hlaleledj@ufs.ac.za](mailto:hlaleledj@ufs.ac.za)

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