



Thandi Mgwebi is a research and innovation leader in the South African Higher Education sector. After a postdoctoral research period with the South African Aids Vaccine Initiative at the University of Cape Town, she ventured into research and innovation management starting at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), and then later to the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) and the National Research Foundation (NRF), where she was an Executive Director for DST-NRF Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) and Centres of Excellence, the national flagship programmes of the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI). Thandi is recognised for her leadership, science diplomacy, insightful knowledge of the SA National System of Innovation (NSI) and championing gender inclusiveness and capacity development in research. One her notable contributions has been the Founding Director of the Southern African Systems Analysis Centre (SASAC), a partnership with the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), a champion and founding Executive Director of the transformation of the South African Research Chairs and Centres of Excellence Programme at the NRF that led to the Ministerial appointment of the *SARChI 42* women researchers.

A former Director of Research at the University of the Western Cape, Thandi is currently Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Engagement at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) and DVC designate for Research, Innovation and internationalisation at the Nelson Mandela University, South Africa.