

Thank you to all the delegates who attended the 54<sup>th</sup> SACLA conference at Tuscan Rose in Bloemfontein, Free State. The theme of the conference was “Innovation in CS, IS, and IT Education: Navigating the Next Frontier”, and it was great to see such a vibrant gathering of minds, all dedicated to the advancement of computer education in Southern Africa. For over five decades, SACLA has been a cornerstone for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and networking among computer lecturers in our region. This conference continued that tradition by providing us with a platform to connect, learn, and be inspired.

In a world increasingly shaped by rapid technological advancements, the role of computer lecturers has never been more critical. We are at the forefront of preparing the next generation of innovators, problem-solvers, and digital leaders. The insights we shared, the research that was presented, and the connections we forged all contribute to shaping the future of computing education in Southern Africa. As part of the conference, the annual HOD colloquium, chaired by Prof Estelle Taylor, highlighted current challenges and provided a shared platform for discussion on the future of AI in computer education.

On behalf of the organising committee, I want to thank each of the delegates. Your presence and participation at the conference are what made this conference a success. I'd also like to extend our gratitude to our sponsors, whose generous support has made this event possible. To our Platinum sponsors: The University of the Free State (Computer Science and Informatics), BBD Software and Oracle Academy. To Our Gold Sponsors: Microzone and IBM, To Our Silver Sponsors: SAS and IITPSA, To Our Bronze Sponsors: Cengage. We thank the conference organiser, Mongoose C&D, for their planning and support of the logistics. Without the support and sponsors, we cannot host this conference, and without the delegates, the conference is meaningless.

I personally want to thank the organising committee for their dedication to the organisation of the conference; without you, it would not have been possible.

Set out below are the statistics for the 2025 SALC Conference.

- Total number of registrations: 59
- Sponsors: 11
- LOC Members: 6
- Attendees presenting papers: 25 (+1 Absent)
- Cancellations and substitutions: 3
- Non-attendance: 2
- Net Surplus of Funds: R 93,854.75

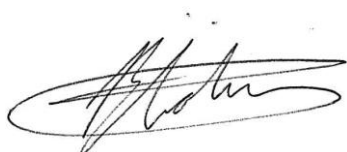
#### Feedback

- Good food. Good presentations. Stanley mugs!
- The networking opportunities were great. The balance between talks and networking was good. The venue was beautiful. It would be good to have slightly bigger rooms so that more people can attend sessions.
- Program timelines strictly adhered. Excellent venue. Relevant content.

- The interactions during the paper presentations and constructive guidance to junior researchers
- I loved the gala dinner and cocktail evening. I liked that it was informal and I could network with fellow researchers. I really liked that there was frequent tea/coffee breaks with snacks. The food made it easier to network and I was very impressed!
- HOD colloquium was good as always
- Presenting to an engaging audience, the venue was beautiful, the atmosphere was friendly and professional, the food was good.
- Networking, HOD colloquium, quality of presentations

Participating Institutions:

- BBD
- Belgium Campus iTversity
- Cengage Learning
- Central University Of Technology
- Corpus Christi Catholic School
- IBM
- Institute of Information Technology Professionals South Africa (IITPSA)
- MicroZone Solutions
- Nelson Mandela University
- North-West University
- ORACLE
- SAS
- UNISA
- University of Cape Town
- University of Limpopo
- University of Pretoria
- University of the Free State
- University of the Western Cape
- University of the Witwatersrand
- University of Zimbabwe
- University Of Zululand
- Walter Sisulu University



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