

REFLECTIONS OF LONG SERVING SASCE EXECUTIVE MEMBER

As I will be stepping down as member of the executive committee at the end of the current term of office, I would like to thank the society and its members for their support and friendship I have received over the past 15 years. Reflecting back on my involvement in the activities of SASCE at national and international level during this period has been a rewarding experience. I have had the opportunity at executive level to work with colleagues and friends who have a passion for the Co-operative Education model.

As an ordinary member of the society and as an executive member, serving in the positions of Vice-President, President and Part-President over the past 10 years, I was afforded wonderful opportunities for professional development, debate and making a contribution at national and international level. During this period I have learnt from, and shared expertise with my colleagues who through SASCE, have become my friends. Attendance of SASCE and WACE International conferences and SASCE Executive and National Forum meetings have been an ongoing highlight of my academic career. The level of debate within SASCE, the quality of papers presented, and increased participation and outputs delivered by Co-operative Education Practitioners, especially over the past 5 years, is a clear indication that the society has matured, raised its game and profile.

The current leadership of the society, I believe, is in the hands of committed individuals who are being well supported by the members of the society. The large number of members attending National Forum meetings and SASCE workshops, is not only evidence of this support, but also an indication of the contribution the society is making in terms of the continuing professional development of Co-operative Education Practitioners at a national level.

SASCE has placed itself as a strategic roleplayer on the South African Higher Education landscape as relates to issues of work integrated learning and national skills development initiatives. The recently approved business plan and decision to establish a permanent office, will further focus the activities, outputs and raise the profile and national debate on the importance of the inclusion of work integrated learning into academic programmes.

I would therefore like to encourage the delegates attending the national conference who are new to the field of Co-operative Education, to join SASCE and support its activities. The rewards of membership, support and participation in the activities of the society in terms of professional development and networking with your peers cannot be over-emphasized. In conclusion, I would like to thank the present and past executive members for their teamwork and camaraderie in working towards the common cause we all believe in and are passionate about.