

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Innovations In The Science of Teaching and Learning Conference



*Dancers at the Opening Ceremony of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Innovations in the Science of Teaching and Learning Conference, at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa*

The Director of the Global Quality Assurance Association (GQAA), Dr Violet Makuku, attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Innovations in the Science and Teaching Conference as a keynote speaker from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2025 at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa. In her keynote address, chaired by Prof Tilly Moodley, ***'Redefining Higher Education for a Better Quality, Sustainable and Transformative Future: Integrating Data-Driven & Ethical AI Use for Student Support & Success,'*** Dr. Violet Makuku stressed the rapid rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Higher Education and the need for traditional universities in Africa to redefine and reshape into ethical AI hubs. She emphasised the need to embrace AI because the industries where students will work upon graduation have already automated and fully embraced AI.

The GQAA Director convincingly urged institutions to redefine and put quality education at the centre of everything to prepare students for a digital future that is volatile, complex and interconnected. Dr Violet Makuku's definition of quality in this context means relevance, transformation and sustainability. One of the key words in her address was *'redefine'* and this is because of the outdated models that need to be changed/upgraded to meet the standards of this fast-changing world, emerging global challenges, namely, climate change, rapid technological advancements and inequality issues.





*Dr Violet Makuku (Director GQAA) giving remarks at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Innovation in the Science of Teaching and Learning Conference*

Dr Violet Makuku strengthens her position on Artificial Intelligence while reminding people of the power of data-driven innovations aided by Artificial Intelligence. AI can personalize, predict and support student success. The GQAA Director emphasised the need for ethical AI use to avoid biases, protect student data through seeking their consent to use it, promote fairness, transparency, accountability and governance.



*Dr Makuku poses with other facilitators/session chairs and keynote speakers at the conference in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa*





*Dr Violet Makuku, while attending and paying attention to the proceedings during the University of KwaZulu-Natal Conference in Durban, South Africa*

To wrap up her address, Dr Violet Makuku challenged University leaders, policymakers, industry and students, from their respective angles, to embrace and ethically use Artificial Intelligence in partnership and not competition.



*Dr Violet Makuku handing over 2 trophies to the University of KwaZulu-Natal & Its Teaching & Learning Centre Interim Director Prof Nyna Amin, being assisted by Dr Joseph Jere*