



Siyaphumelela
we succeed

2025 CONFERENCE

Reimagining Student Success and
Expanding Opportunity for All

08-11
July
2025

REGISTER
NOW!



KEYNOTE PRESENTER

Dr. Timothy Renick, Founding
Executive Director of the
National Institute for Student
Success and Professor at
Georgia State University.

Indaba Hotel, Spa and Conference Centre, Fourways, Johannesburg

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

On behalf of Saide, the coordinating body for the Siyaphumelela Initiative and the Kresge Foundation, we invite you to participate in the 2025 Siyaphumelela Student Success Network Conference. **This event will take place from 8-11 July 2025 at the [Indaba Hotel, Spa and Conference Centre in Fourways Johannesburg](#).**

This year's conference will go beyond the traditional. This year's conference theme, "*Reimagining student success and expanding opportunity for all*", aims to inspire delegates to reimagine traditional approaches and embrace new and innovative strategies that empower students to complete their studies successfully, thrive in their careers, contribute meaningfully to society and achieve lasting economic mobility. The theme further encapsulates our vision of scaling out, scaling up and scaling deep, fostering innovation and collaboration and driving systemic change.

Important Information

Dates

- Registration: 08 May - 20 June 2025. Register [HERE](#).
- Feedback on Proposals: 13 June 2025

Cost

R4 500 excluding VAT, R5 175 including VAT.

Using the [registration link](#), you can generate a [bulk quotation](#) for your institution. When using the bulk quotation, individuals still need to register for the Conference. Please forward your purchase order and proof of payment to maureenm@saide.org.za.

If you have any challenges or requests related to the quotation or invoice, please contact maureenm@saide.org.za.

Accommodation

Accommodation is available at the [Indaba Hotel, Spa and Conference Centre](#), with a limited number of rooms (approximately 100 rooms) available for self-paying delegates. The conference rate is **R1 750 incl. VAT** per person for bed and breakfast. Additional accommodation is available at the [City Lodge Hotel Fourways](#), located next to Montecasino, a 4km drive from Indaba Hotel.

About the 2025 Siyaphumelela Conference

Siyaphumelela Conference Aims

The Siyaphumelela Conference aims to:

1. **Share Evidence-Based and Scalable Interventions** – Share with delegates proven strategies that can be implemented for transformative post-secondary student success.
2. **Encourage Collaboration** – Create spaces for inter- and intra-institutional sharing of insights, learn from each other's experiences and work together to drive change.
3. **Advance Scholarship in Student Success** – Explore what student success looks like from a Siyaphumelela practitioner's perspective, how it is integrated within the institution, and deepen the academic discourse.
4. **Embed the Student Voice** – Ensure students actively participate in presentations and discussions to keep their perspectives central.
5. **Foster Innovation and Advocacy** – Advocate for Siyaphumelela as a transformative, sustainable and scalable model for Student Success, encouraging innovative practices and solutions.

Some Conference Highlights

Keynote Presenter: Dr Tim Renick



Named one of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders by Fortune magazine, Timothy Renick is the founding Executive Director of the National Institute for Student Success and Professor at Georgia State University. Between 2008-2020, he directed the student success efforts of the university, overseeing a 70% improvement in graduation rates and the elimination of all equity gaps based on students' race, ethnicity, or income level. Dr. Renick has testified on strategies for helping university students succeed before both the U.S. Senate and House, and he has twice been invited to speak at the

White House. His work has been covered by the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, Time, and CNN and cited by former President Barack Obama.

Dr. Renick has been recognised as one of the Most Innovative People in Higher Education by the Washington Monthly. He received the Award for National Leadership in Student Success Innovation and the prestigious McGraw Prize in Higher Education. With over \$70 million in grants, he has led initiatives aimed at improving outcomes and equity in college education. Dr. Renick graduated summa cum laude from Dartmouth College and holds an M.A. and Ph.D. in Religion from Princeton University.

Social Events



A highlight of the conference will be the Siyaphumelela Conference Cocktail Function, taking place on the evening of Thursday, 10 July 2025. This social event offers a valuable opportunity for informal engagement and networking among higher education professionals, policymakers, funders, and partners committed to advancing student success. The evening will feature light refreshments and drinks, and a relaxed atmosphere designed to foster meaningful networking beyond the formal sessions of the conference. Delegates will also have the opportunity to unwind and enjoy time on the dancefloor. We look forward to your participation in this special occasion.

Siyaphumelela Scholars 2025

The Siyaphumelela Scholar Programme is an inspiring initiative designed to recognise and celebrate outstanding students from our network of 20 universities across South Africa. **Five scholars have been selected** from nominations submitted by these institutions, celebrating students who benefited from Siyaphumelela student success interventions at their institution, exemplifying leadership, resilience and a commitment to helping other students succeed in their studies. Each selected scholar will have the opportunity to develop and present their "I Am" poems, a powerful expression of their personal journeys, identities, and aspirations. These poems will be recited during the conference, providing a platform for the scholars to share their unique voices. The conference will culminate in a panel discussion on the final day, where the scholars will engage in a thought-provoking dialogue, reflecting on their experiences and the transformative impact of the Siyaphumelela Initiative.

