



Association of International Education Administrators
Leaders in International Higher Education

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AIEA Recognizes Durban University of Technology with 2021 Innovation Award in Internationalization

Durham, NC (February 16, 2021)— At its 2021 Virtual Annual Conference, the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA) presented Durban University of Technology (DUT) with the Innovation Award in Internationalization in recognition of its “Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)” initiative.

The AIEA Innovation Award in Internationalization highlights exceptional programs, projects, or initiatives aimed at advancing internationalization. As colleges and universities around the United States increasingly recognize the importance of pursuing internationalization as a distinct and intentional project, the need grows for successful and specific models of programming at all levels. Many international education leaders work tirelessly and creatively to realize a vision for internationalization that best meets their institutional needs. Some of this work is not only effective but enlightening, worthy of emulation by others who are either new to the field or value creative approaches to their work.

This COIL project, part of a longtime endeavor in North America, represents the first and currently only participation by an African higher education institution. In June of 2017, DUT ran its first COIL experience with its Dental Technology Program and the participation of 10 DUT Dental Technology students. Since then, DUT, through the International Education and Partnerships Office, has successfully run a number of COIL programs with their partners. Having gained experience in this method of virtual exchange, DUT will be offering online capacity-building courses to internationalization practitioners.

The COIL programs at DUT contribute to the cause of social justice in higher education by providing opportunities for access to international programming, even in difficult times and with limited resources. Whether the issues are financial, environmental, health-related, or political, DUT’s COIL programs allow continued access and participation by students and others when they might not otherwise be able to attend.



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The first phase of the project is viable within an institution with funding of \$10,000. The nature of the project within the capacity-building context allows for a knock-on effect, as has been noted in many of the COIL consortiums. In training new COILers, they are then also being trained to train fellow new COILers, allowing for viability and sustainability within an institution. The DUT COIL initiative has proven that within the South African context, COIL works, and is sustainable.

AIEA recognizes Durban University of Technology for its participation in the COIL project as the first and currently only African country to do so, and the association applauds DUT's leadership in Africa in the integration of the COIL program into DUT's academic endeavors.

About AIEA:

The Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA) is a member organization that equips leaders to shape the future of higher education in a global context.

AIEA advances strategic transformational approaches to internationalization of higher education; empowers those who lead such efforts; convenes global conversation on key issues; and partners with other organizations around the world to develop sustainable, forward-looking perspectives.

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