

Heidi October



Heidi October is the Deputy Director at the Centre for Student Leadership & Structures at Stellenbosch University. She obtained her BA(Psychology, German), BAHons (German), MPhil (Organisations & Public Cultures) degrees at Stellenbosch University. She has two decades of stakeholder experience in Higher Education with extensive international benchmarking at over 25 international universities. She has hosted more than 100 local and international engagement opportunities, acting either as MC, guest

speaker at conferences or facilitating dialogue among key stakeholders. Her interest and involvement in diversity and stereotype reduction seminars began in the 1990s as a young student leader when she actively participated in student politics. Her social integration projects to stimulate critical thinking on campus were, inter alia, funded by the Institute of Justice & Reconciliation (IJR). This personal interest inspired her later personal engagements in student leadership programmes, as mentor, and her facilitation work focusing on:

- active citizenship
- student change and transitioning
- leadership development
- understanding stereotypes and embracing diversity
- conflict management
- staff development, team building & strategic planning.

She's passionate about long distance walking and is an avid solo traveller.