

# TESTIMONY OF LEADERSHIP & EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



**Nelson Mandela  
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*for tomorrow*

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## **REPORT ON DR ANDRE DU PLESSIS – AS SUPPORT FOR “TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD”**

I had the pleasure of first meeting Dr du Plessis shortly before he joined the university. From then till now, I estimate to be about 3 years, I have been deeply impressed by him. As a person who has made a mid-career move into academia he brings to our Faculty rich and appropriate school experience combined with an excellent academic profile, including a critical mind and a mature disposition. He thus demonstrates expertise as a primary school teacher educator.

Although I have a limited exposure to his teaching approach, from discussions and observation he seems to be a dynamic and effective lecturer who through appropriate facilitation motivates and inspire his students. He spends considerable time preparing, is not afraid to ask for help, interacts well with students, understands and practises “gaining student involvement” and is prepared to be innovative. He has been prepared to integrate new technologies in his teaching and draw on the expertise of others to enhance the quality of his lectures.

I can, with conviction, state that he, over the period at the NMMU, has becoming increasingly confident in his role as a lecturer and staff member. As a newer staff member he is not afraid, in both informal and formal gatherings, to speak his mind, ask penetrating and insightful question and exercise leadership. This growth in confidence combined with a truly caring and respectful attitude towards his students and peers has seen him establish himself as a respected academic valued and appreciated by most. He thus is more and more realizing his potential to exercise academic leadership and in a short space of time established himself as a well-respected colleague and lecturer.

I believe he is well positioned to make a valuable contribution to improving the quality of education in South Africa. Based on what I have experienced and observed I rate him a really good teacher and give him my full support in seeking the recognition that goes with such an award.

*Owen Hugh Glover*

Prof Hugh Glover