University of Limpopo

Institutional Forum Summit

#IFS2026

IFS 2026 SPEAKER



Dr Thandi Lewin

Deputy Director-General: University Education Department of Higher Education and Training, South Africa

Dr Thandi Lewin is the Deputy Director-General responsible for University Education in South Africa's Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). She is an experienced higher education policy specialist, researcher and academic whose career spans government, universities, the non-profit sector and philanthropic organisations.

Prior to assuming her current position, Dr Lewin served as Chief Director for Institutional Governance and Management Support within the Department's University Education Branch. In this capacity, she contributed to strengthening university governance, institutional management, student funding policy and student development and support. She has also been involved in the development and implementation of national policies aimed at improving access, equity, quality and transformation within the higher education sector.

Dr Lewin holds a Bachelor of Social Science degree from the University of Cape Town, a Master's degree in Education and International Development from the University of London's Institute of Education, and a PhD in Higher Education Studies from the University of the Free State. Her doctoral research examined the professional experiences and working lives of early-career women academics within gendered institutional environments.

Her areas of expertise include higher education policy and governance, institutional transformation, gender equity, academic careers, leadership and social justice. She has also been associated with the University of Johannesburg's Ali Mazrui Centre for Higher Education Studies and has contributed to academic research and policy discussions on the development of South Africa's higher education system.

Through her extensive experience in policy development, institutional governance and academic research, Dr Lewin brings valuable perspectives on the role of universities in advancing transformation, inclusion, accountability and sustainable development.