

Keynote speaker:

Importance of research for the tourism sector



Dr Hugh Bartis is a Principal Lecturer in the Tourism Department at the Nelson Mandela University. Since 1999 until 2015, he was the Head of the Tourism Department at this institution. During this period, he played a key role in developing and offering new Tourism programmes from undergraduate to Post-Graduate level at the Nelson Mandela University. As a result of his expertise and in-depth knowledge about Tourism education as well as national policy requirements, he occasionally serves as Programme Reviewer for the Council on Higher Education. His association with Higher Education spans more than 20 years having worked in the public and private sector. He is an alumnus of the University of Fort Hare, Rhodes University, Ohio University and Nelson Mandela University and he holds a doctorate in Tourism Management from the latter university. Apart from being in the academia, Hugh has served as a Non-Executive Director of the Eastern Cape Tourism Board. He is a former board member of the Southern Africa Tourism Services Association (SATSA) and previous SATSA Chapter Chair for the Eastern Cape Province. In addition, he has also served as a Non-Executive director and Chairman of Nelson Mandela Bay Tourism. In 2013 he was appointed by the Minister of Tourism to serve as a member of the National Tourism Research Expert Forum. Hugh lectures on the undergraduate and postgraduate Tourism programmes at the Nelson Mandela University and also supervises six (6) Post-Graduate students at present.