



15 December 2020

Dear WRC Sector Partner

RE: Request to participate in the WRC/DSI programme – Water Graduate Employability Programme

The Water Research Commission (WRC), in partnership with the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), has developed a short-term Water Graduate Employment Programme (Water GEP) to support and improve the employability of 400 graduates through critical skills development and work exposure in the Water and Sanitation (and linked) sectors in South Africa. Unemployed graduates who have the drive and ability to contribute to the sector(s) will be supported through the Water GEP over a 3-month period (January 2021 to March 2021), with the aim of building skills and capacity across multiple disciplines within Academia, SMMEs and Industry, and Water Service Institutions.

The WRC has opened a National call to various host institutions and academic partners requesting their participation in providing capacity building opportunities (in-office, on-site, or at-home) to selected, unemployed graduates for the 3-month duration. The Water GEP encourages participation of hosts from all fields and disciplines related to the Water and Sanitation sector, and aims to match graduates with appropriate supervisors/mentors based on relevant graduate qualifications, skills and aspirational career paths, and host project needs and specifications. As part of this process we are also reaching out to water sector stakeholders, like your waterboard, to partner with us in hosting some of these graduates in your research and operations division.

The programme brings dedicated coordination and management support for hosts/mentors and will cover payment of monthly stipends at R3500 per graduate, support for specific equipment or data needs, and 2-3 days per month of programme-wide critical skills development and networking for the graduates. By being a host you will be required to provide graduate operational support, including project coordination, supervision, and mentoring, as well as project specific operational costs, where required, including those linked to site-related work that is specific to the work exposure being provided e.g. community projects or field work. All aspects of the process are being developed to fast-track support to graduates whilst reducing administration on the part of hosts/mentors.

The call closes on Friday 15th January and we look forward to your support in this endeavor. Attached to this letter is the call and a presentation that outlines the areas of focus for the Water GEP and how this could benefit both sector capacity and improve the employability and work exposure of graduates. For further information please email watergep@wrc.org.za or contact Dr Chantal Ramcharan-Kotze at +27 60 529 1305.



Yours sincerely,



Dr Stanley Liphadzi
Group Executive
Research and Development Branch
Water Research Commission (WRC)