



**UNIVERSITY OF
MPUMALANGA**

Creating Opportunities

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To: Whom it may Concern

Subject: Reference and Commendation: AI-Native Course

I am pleased to offer my strongest commendation for the AI-Native Platform and its associated AI course, an exceptional and forward-looking programme that aligns seamlessly with the future of higher education in South Africa and across the African continent.

This course demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the rapidly evolving digital landscape and responds directly to national and continental priorities, including South Africa's National AI Policy Framework (2024) and the African Union's Continental AI Strategy (2024). It is rare to encounter an educational innovation that so precisely meets both policy direction and the real operational needs of universities and society. What distinguishes this course is its AI-native philosophy. It has an approach where artificial intelligence is not an add-on, but the core engine driving teaching, learning, student support, and institutional transformation. The platform's capabilities, such as its 24/7 multilingual AI tutor, personalised learning pathways, automated assessment tools, predictive analytics for student success, and an AI-powered career coach, which creates an environment where students, educators, and administrators are empowered to operate at a significantly higher level of efficiency and impact. The course showcases a practical, contextually grounded, and inclusive vision for Africa's education future. I hold that its commitment to accessibility, through multilingual delivery, adaptive technologies for students with special needs, and online/offline capability positions it as a genuinely transformative solution capable of reaching underserved communities and bridging long-standing inequality gaps.

Having experienced this course, I am particularly impressed by the course's potential to support national development goals. Its integration of skills mapping, career coaching, and workforce transition tools directly addresses youth unemployment and the urgent need for digital reskilling across government and industry. The model also unlocks new avenues for third-stream income, enhances institutional reputation. Further, this course fosters financial sustainability which is a crucial advantage for universities navigating today's economic constraints. In my assessment, this AI course is not only academically robust, but visionary. It offers universities a practical pathway to become AI Centres of Excellence, strengthens partnerships with government and industry, and positions institutions to lead rather than follow in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

I fully commend this course and the broader AI-Native Platform initiative. It represents precisely the kind of innovation that will redefine higher education on the continent and prepare our students to thrive in an AI-driven world.

Prof Thenjiwe Meyiwa

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