Professor Lauren Lindstrom, University of California – Davis (USA)

Project Title: Transition into the world of work by youth with disabilities

Host: Professor Maximus M. Sefotho, University of Johannesburg

Professor Lauren Lindstrom forged a collaboration that emerged from an award of a Fulbright Specialist (2018 – 2023), to work on the project: Transition of learners with disability and career development for decent work. Career transition is emerging as an inclusive program aimed at people with disabilities. Professor Lindstrom has extensive experience in this field and is poised to share her knowledge to contribute to the sustainable development goals. The collaboration included support for the development of a centre for neurodiversity@UJ by the department of educational psychology.

During her visit, Prof. Lindstrom will meet with the Department of Basic Education to position career transition for youth with disabilities at policy level. The University of Botswana will host Prof. Lindstrom to present to Professionals and Parents on Career transitioning of youth with disabilities on the 9th. Dr. Marietha Malan of the Alma School, Pretoria will host Prof. on the 10th for a Career Transitioning for Neurodiverse Adolescents project she has started at the school.

Prof. will present on Career Transition of Youth with Disabilities on the LET’S TALK NEURODIVERSITY@UJ – UJFM PROGRAMME 2023 on Friday 11 August from 14:15 – 15:00.

Prof. Lindstrom will also be hosted by the Lesotho Council on Higher Education & the National University of Lesotho where she will conduct training for professionals working in disability and parents of young people with disabilities. Focus Group for Young people with disabilities will be the highlight of the Lesotho engagement. Several institutions of higher learning, associations of people with disabilities and employers will be part of the audience.

From Lesotho, Prof. Lindstrom will head to East London where she will continue presentations on Career transitioning for youth with disabilities, addressing the youth. Training for Professionals and Parents will also be conducted for sustainability.

From East London, Prof. Lindstrom is scheduled to hold collaborative meetings with the Division of Disability Studies at the University of Cape Town. This will be to consolidate discussions started in January 2023 while at the EASA conference in Cape Town on developing the ECHO project between UJ, UCT and UC- Davis. Both Prof. Sefotho and Lindstrom have been invited to conduct a day’s workshop Post-graduate Research and Supervision at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology on the 22nd of August and conclude with addressing MPhil & PhD Students at UCT who are mainly students with disabilities themselves.