

Professor Chitha, the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences and Associate Professor of Health Systems and Policy at Walter Sisulu University, is a recognized health visionary whose leadership spans health sciences, institutional strategy, and transformative governance. With a distinguished record in higher education and public health systems, he brings extensive expertise in strategic planning, academic innovation, and stakeholder engagement. He is a qualified medical doctor, health economist, and award-winning public health manager with extensive experience within the South African healthcare environment. He has had significant exposure to transformation opportunities, partnership governance, and the implementation of priority health programmes at primary, tertiary, and academic levels. His experience includes work and collaboration with South African government institutions, the NGO sector, research institutions, and national and international universities. He obtained his medical degree in 2000 and a master's in public health (Health Economics) from the University of Cape Town in 2007, and most recently achieved his PhD in Public Health.

Professor Shangase brings extensive academic and clinical expertise to her role as Vice-President. She has a strong record in teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students, providing patient care, and leading academically as Associate Professor and Head of the Wits School of Oral Health Sciences. She is an active member of the South African Society of Periodontology, Implantology and Oral Medicine, contributing to specialised dental practice and research. She holds a BDS in Dentistry and an M.Dent in Periodontics and Oral Medicine, supporting her deep expertise in oral health sciences and commitment to professional excellence.