



**Higher
Education
Sustainability
Initiative**

HESI+10
Celebrating 10 years
with Higher Education
Sustainability Impact

**HESI+10
GLOBAL FORUM**
6 July 2022

HESI+10 Webinar

Transformation of higher education post COVID-19

09.00 – 10.30 AM (EDT), 27 April 2022, virtual

The Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI) is an open partnership between several United Nations entities and the higher education community to highlight the critical role of higher education in achieving sustainable development.

Each year, HESI organizes a global forum as a special event to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)¹ – UN’s main platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level. The 2022 HESI+10 Global Forum, which will be held on 6 July 2022 as a virtual event, will place a particular focus on deepening the understanding of the challenges and opportunities the higher education community can play in building back better from the COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in line with the theme of HLPF in 2022.

Three open webinars on topics related to the theme of HLPF will be held in the lead-up to the forum. The output of the webinars will feed into the discussions of the forum.

The disruptions that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused to societies, including in the education sector, is unprecedented. The webinar will explore how the pandemic has transformed higher education’s approaches to education and learning, its ability to reach and engage students, including challenges and inequalities for those that lack capacities for rapid digital transformations and online learning.

More information and registration to the forum and webinars is available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/HESI>

Programme

Time	Agenda
09.00 – 09.05 AM	Welcome remarks

¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Lotta Tähtinen, Chief, Outreach and Partnerships Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA
09.05 – 09.10 AM	<p>Thematic feedback from audience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Florencia Librizzi, Senior Advisor, Sulitest
09.10 – 10.20 AM	<p>Panel discussion - Transformation of higher education post COVID-19</p> <p><u>Guiding questions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the main ways in which the higher education landscape and teaching and learning have changed as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic? What are the challenges and opportunities that you have observed? What lessons learned can you share with the audience? How would you like to see them shaping the future of higher education? How has the COVID-19 pandemic changed the ability to reach and engage students? <p><u>Panelists</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Paul J. LeBlanc, President, Southern New Hampshire University Ms. Susan Rundell Singer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Provost, and Professor of Biology, Rollins College Ms. Weena Gera, University of the Philippines Cebu Ms. Romeela Mohee, Commissioner of the Higher Education Commission Mr. Estrada Merino Alfredo, Universidad de Lima <p><u>Moderated by</u> Dr. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Chancellor, Nelson Mandela University</p>
10.20 - 10.25 AM	<p>Update on the processes related to the Transforming Education Summit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Won Jun Byun, Programme Specialist, UNESCO
10.25 – 10.30 AM	<p>Next steps for HESI+10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Ola Goransson, Sustainable Development Officer, Outreach and Partnerships Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA

Bios of speakers

Speaker	Brief bio
<p>Ms. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi</p> <p>(moderator)</p>	<p>Geraldine Joslyn Fraser-Moleketi is the Chancellor of the Nelson Mandela University, Chairman of the Advisory Council of the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA); Chair of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) an expert body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); Lead Independent Director for Exxaro; Non-Executive Board member of Standard bank Group and Standard Bank South Africa. Fraser-Moleketi previously served as Special Envoy on Gender of the African Development Bank; former Director of Global Democratic Governance Practice of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Former Minister of Public Service and Administration; and Minister for Welfare and Population Development in South Africa's first democratic government. In, 1996. Whilst serving as the Deputy Minister of Welfare and Population Development, she was Deputy Leader of the South African Delegation to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, in 1995. She has worked in inter- governmental structures, interacted with political leaders, business leaders and civil society, and have been involved in complex negotiations across different issues and sectors. She also served as a member of the Reference Group on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (OCPR) of the United Nations Development System.</p>
<p>Mr. Paul J. LeBlanc</p>	<p>Dr. Paul J. LeBlanc is President of Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) and author of Students First: Equity, Access, and Opportunity in Higher Education. Under the 18 years of Paul's direction, SNHU has grown from 10,000 students to over 165,000 learners and is the largest non-profit provider of online higher education in the country. Paul serves on the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine's Board on Higher Education and Workforce. In 2018, Paul was awarded the prestigious TIAA Institute Hesburgh Award for Leadership Excellence in Higher Education. Paul immigrated to the United States as a child, was the first person in his extended family to attend college and is a graduate of Framingham State University (BA), Boston College (MA), and the University of Massachusetts (PhD). From 1993 to 1996 he directed a technology start up for Houghton Mifflin Publishing Company, was President of Marlboro College (VT) from 1996 to 2003 and became President of SNHU in 2003.</p>
<p>Ms. Susan Rundell Singer</p>	<p>Susan Rundell Singer is the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at Rollins College and a Professor in the Department of Biology. Immediately prior to joining Rollins, she was Director for the Division of Undergraduate Education at National Science Foundation (NSF) and coordinated 14 Federal</p>

	<p>agencies in implementing the undergraduate strategic objectives of the first Federal STEM Education 5-Year Strategic Plan. Previously, she served as the Laurence McKinley Gould Professor, in the Biology and Cognitive Science Departments at Carleton College for 30 years, where she had the opportunity to direct the Perlman Center for Learning and Teaching. She has served on numerous boards, including the NSF Education and Human Resources advisory committee and the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine's (NASEM) Board on Science Education, where I chaired the committees responsible for America's Lab Report, Promising Practices in STEM Undergraduate Education, and Discipline-based Education Research: Understanding and Improving Learning in Undergraduate Science and Engineering. Currently, she serves on the NASEM Roundtable on Systemic Change in Undergraduate STEM Education and am chair-elect for the AAAS Education Section.</p>
<p>Ms. Weena Gera</p>	<p>Dr. Weena Gera is an Associate Professor of Political Science and former Vice Chancellor for Administration at the University of the Philippines Cebu (Feb 2019- Jan 2022). She has published and consulted on various governance analyses in the Philippines and Southeast Asia, including the politics of bureaucratic representation, public participation, central-local relations, as well as governance for sustainable development and urban resilience. Dr. Gera received her PhD in International Development from Nagoya University (2009) under the Monbukagakusho scholarship. She has been awarded the JSPS-UNU (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science- United Nations University) postdoctoral research fellowship at the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS), Tokyo and the Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science (IR3S) of Tokyo University (2012-2014), and the OeAD-Ernst Mach Grants-ASEA-UNINET postdoctoral research fellowship at the Institute of Forest, Environmental and Natural Resource Policy (InFER) at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna (2016-2017). In 2018, she was among the five recipients of the Gro Brundtland Award for Women in Sustainable Development, established by Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland in 2014 to recognize the contributions of distinguished female researchers in the developing region, in the field of public health and sustainable development. Then in 2019, she was conferred the Bernd Rode Award in the Senior Researchers category by the ASEA-UNINET for her research project on ecosystem services toward sustainable mineral development in the ASEAN. She is currently back in Austria as OeAD-ASEA-UNINET-Ernst Mach Grant Research Fellow at TU Wien, doing research on energy system transition toward sustainable digital transformation in ASEAN.</p>
<p>Ms. Romeela Mohee</p>	<p>Prof (Dr) Romeela Mohee is the Commissioner of the Higher Education Commission, Mauritius, a Professor in Chemical and Environmental Engineering and former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mauritius. Prof</p>

	<p>Mohee is an experienced Education Specialist with a demonstrated history of working in the development of higher education models and policies. She has worked at the Commonwealth of Learning from 2017 to 2020 as an Education Specialist and has assisted many Commonwealth member states in their development of higher education policies and strategies. Prof Mohee has 25 years of academic experience as a Professor and Head of Department in the field of Chemical and Environmental Engineering, as well as, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering from 2009 to 2012. She has also held the position of National Research Chair in Solid Waste Management at the Mauritius Research Council. Prof Mohee's expertise has been recognised both at national and regional level. She has been Vice President of the Maurice Ile Durable Steering Committee She has also held the position of Environmental Assessor for the Environment and Land Use tribunal (ELAT) from 2011 to 2013.</p>
<p>Mr. Estrada Merino Alfredo</p>	<p>Alfredo Estrada Merino holds a PhD in education, and a master's in research, in senior management and in international business and foreign trade management. He holds the position of responsible member of the Global Business Research Group of the Scientific Research Institute of Universidad de Lima. He is a member of PRME Anti-Poverty Working Group. Coordinator of Social Responsible Network in CLADEA, currently is Director of Sustainability Center of Universidad de Lima Peru.</p>