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*I assumed the Director of Academic Engagement and Collaboration position at Nelson Mandela University on 1 April 2022. The living poster allows me to reflect on how I will position myself as a **critical conscious leader** to re-imagine engagement as a key strategic priority and programme to advance the aspiration of Mandela University as a transformative, responsive African university in service of and with society.*



The sum of my learning experiences

I was blessed to start my teaching career in a socially economically marginalised community, mentored by a leader who placed people above systems. My mentor principal Mr. Wessels laid the leadership foundations for the emergence of the critical conscious leader. My progression to the principal of a primary school germinated in me the desire actively seek and form solidarities to respond to challenges our working-class communities face by collaborating with various stakeholder-communities. My appointment as the Director of the Centre for the Community School at Nelson Mandela University awakened the consciousness to co-construct usefully social scholarship, allowing schools to respond to their contextual realities. I was then seconded to lead a University-wide Vice-Chancellor's project known as the Hubs of Convergence (HoC). The HoC is a project aligned to the University's Vision 2030, which explores a re-imagined approach to engagement that allows us to respond to historical and contemporary societal challenges locally, nationally, and globally.

The Self Ecosystem

The various dimensions of self shape my personal and professional learning. The spiritual level is the first level, which includes the ongoing clarifications of my purpose on the planet in concert with fellow beings, starting with my family and the planet's ecosystems. The spiritual clarification is buttressed by the importance of socio-economic-emotional wellness, allowing me to live my best life now while embracing the journey of purpose clarification. Being well will allow me to be fully present in the various spaces where I position myself as a critical conscious leader and an activist for real change.