

2014 Talloires Network Leaders Conference to be Held in Cape Town, South Africa

We are pleased to announce that the 2014 Talloires Network Leaders Conference will take place from December 2 through December 4, 2014 in Cape Town, South Africa. In addition, we are delighted that the conference will be co-sponsored by the South African Higher Education Community Engagement Forum (SAHECEF) and will be hosted in partnership with the Cape Higher Education Consortium (CHEC).

The conference will advance the global movement of civic engagement and social responsibility in higher education; strengthen TN members' civic engagement programs; elevate public awareness of, and support for, the global movement; contribute to and highlight TN programs; and reinforce local and regional leadership in civic engagement and social responsibility. The 2014 convening will place a special emphasis on strengthening relationships with, and elevating the work of, the numerous Talloires Network regional partners and other partner organizations around the globe.

As with the 2011 Talloires Network Leaders Conference, held in Madrid, Spain, we invite all heads of Talloires Network member universities to attend the conference. We would also like to encourage these leaders to bring with them a senior faculty or staff member and a student leader. A new feature of the 2014 Conference is that it will include the participation by a sizeable group of university student leaders (throughout the conference as well as some student-only sessions). We also encourage our partner organizations to organize pre- or post-conference activities.



South Africa, and more specifically Cape Town, is an ideal location for this conference for a number of reasons. First, there is the presence of a large number of very active Talloires Network member universities, including the four who are members of CHEC. Holding the conference in Cape Town will give the Talloires Network the opportunity to highlight the excellent work being undertaken at these universities, among others. Secondly, it is a priority of the TN Steering Committee that the conference be held in the global South, in order to recognize and support the vital initiatives and leadership of Southern universities to accelerate social and economic development. Lastly, but certainly not least, Cape Town and South Africa is a highly attractive location -- including its natural environment, culture and history, plus its warm temperatures and sunny skies in December -- for TN members to visit.

Details about the conference, including the venue, are in the process of being finalized. Once this information is available, it will be shared with the membership on the TN website, in the Newsletter, via email and on a yet to be created conference website. Please contact the Secretariat (talloiresnetwork@tufts.edu) with any questions and suggestions that you may have.