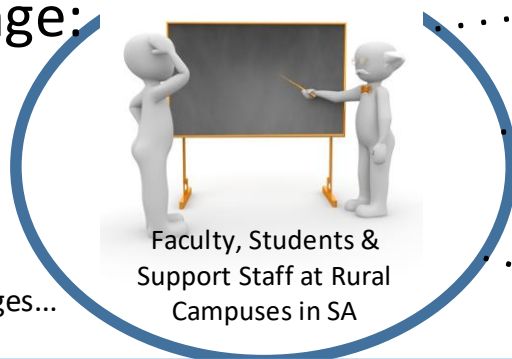# Theory of Change:

Rural Campus Connection Project II

Due to connectivity challenges...

Faculty, Students & Support Staff at Rural Campuses in SA

- Have restricted access to online resources compared to urban counterparts
- Have limited exposure to online communication and collaboration with broader academic community
- Can often not participate in existing in-person training opportunities due to financial and time constraints associated with travel

Context

By providing connectivity to rural and peri-urban sites through RCCP II it would be possible to decrease the digital divide between these sites and metro institutions

a) For IT Staff
1. Specific workshops for networking staff related to Network service provision
2. Specific workshops (in-person and online) for general IT staff to improve service delivery practices
3. FAQs to better support video conferencing

b) For T&L and Research Support Staff
4. Enablers workshops and online resources providing context of the changing landscape of core business at universities and how it can be supported using technology and the internet

c) For Internet Users
5. Workshops to improve digital and computational literacy
6. Troubleshooting and etiquette guide for video conferencing software users

Combined Initiatives
7. Online conversations about current research and teaching and learning landscape including enabling tools, practices, events, and emerging concepts
8. Mobility funding to participate in events to support knowledge sharing and development of community of practice
9. Disseminate information about RCCP II activities, opportunities, and resources

Interventions

A. IT staff will be upskilled to support the physical infrastructure to provide connectivity

B. IT staff will be better equipped to support faculty and students with a variety of services becoming available through Internet connectivity and will understand the relevance of the technologies such as eduroam, federation, video conferencing for successful execution of core business at universities

C. Support staff, faculty, and students will become aware of opportunities related to their work and study and will express interest to participate either online or in-person

D. Faculty and students will use online databases, repositories, publications, and equipment to enhance their work

E. Faculty and students will start to do basic troubleshooting by using online resources such as help documentation, mailing lists

Results: Short Term

I. Students and staff at rural and peri-urban campuses will become equally competitive in research and teaching and learning compared to urban counterparts

II. Students and staff will become part of communities of practice and will influence these communities through there insights and contributions

III. Working with colleagues at rural sites will become more desirable due to awareness of work being carried out at these sites and improved accessibility from the outside

IV. Silos within support divisions and between support and faculty will be broken down

Results: Long Term