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AGCAE

Allan Gray Centre for
Africa Entrepreneurship

Allan Gray Centre for Africa Entrepreneurship Postdoctoral Fellowship

Scope of Research:

The Postdoc will focus on two intellectual projects within the research agenda of the Allan Gray Centre for Africa Entrepreneurship (AGCAE).

Connecten: Connecten, initiated in 2023, seeks to measure and build a regional and national understanding of “ten” conditions that are generally associated with healthy entrepreneurial ecosystems in response to the lack of regional and national data on the same. Lack of data makes it difficult to identify conditions that require support and testing of potential solutions to drive social change. In pursuit of addressing this issue, Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropy South Africa is diligently conducting high-level research on all ten conditions in South Africa, with a vision to cascade this research to the local level through government collaboration. We host a series of Provincial Dialogues with the aim to introduce Connecten to the dynamic players in the entrepreneurial ecosystem within provinces. We do this to foster productive partnerships with municipalities and to collectively develop a comprehensive understanding of all ten conditions within a province. This collaborative endeavour involves close cooperation with various stakeholders, including all district municipalities and district (regional) economic development agencies, chambers of commerce, and other influential business fora. The ultimate objective is to leverage Connecten's insights to inform and shape entrepreneurship-led local economic development. By working hand-in-hand with stakeholders, Connecten envisions empowering municipalities to facilitate impactful solutions and foster local environments conducive to entrepreneurial success and social change. The Postdoc involvement and effort will culminate into co-authorship of two envisioned journal papers along the title lines of “Entrepreneurial Ecosystems and Regional Economic Development in South Africa” and “Custodians of Entrepreneurial Ecosystems in South Africa”.

Africa Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Index: We have partnered with Innovation for Policy (I4Policy) in an ambitious effort to understand entrepreneurial ecosystem conditions broadly similar to Connecten at a continental level. The goal is for this research endeavour to lead to an index we could use as



first basis for understanding some specific country conditions and subsequent dialogues to foster productive entrepreneurship. We are hoping the Postdoc can complement our efforts with an “African Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Literature Review” that can help us better situate the index from productive entrepreneurship perspectives. This will be an additional knowledge product suitable for top-tier journals as an agenda setting paper contributing to ongoing debates about how to better foster entrepreneurship-led sustainable development in Africa.

Requirements:

- A relevant Ph.D (must have graduated within the last five years).
- Good organisational skills, attention to detail and professionalism.
- Strong planning skills, including the ability to work under pressure, set priorities, and function effectively under strict deadlines and shifting priorities.
- Proficiency in MS Office and Excel.
- The ability to function effectively and efficiently within a multicultural team environment.
- Willingness and availability to work extra hours during busy weeks.
- A valid driver’s licence and the willingness to travel domestically and abroad for meetings and programme activities where necessary.
- Fluency in oral and written English.

Recommendations:

- Being a South African or living in South Africa will be an advantage because Connecten is a South African initiative at the moment.
- Past exposure or experience in youth development and/or working in different African markets will be an advantage.
- Past exposure or experience in entrepreneurship development will be an advantage.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills for coordinating across teams and stakeholder groups.
- A drive to learn and master new technologies and research methods.
- Proficiency in data staging, analysis and/or visualisations will be advantageous.
- Passionate about the transformative power of entrepreneurship.

Commencement date: 1 February 2024 or “As soon as possible”.

Appointment period: Two Years.

Closing date: 18 December 2023

Enquiries: GEM@sun.ac.za

- Send a cover letter of motivation.
- accompanied by a comprehensive curriculum vitae and certified copy of PhD Certificate.
- include a list of publications or one academic writing sample (paper, book chapter or dissertation chapter).
- the names and contact details of at least two referees.
- to GEM@sun.ac.za.

Contact details of the host (Dr Phumlani Nkontwana): pnkontwana@sun.ac.za

- Applicants should request their referees to forward confidential reports by the closing date directly to the same address.
- Note: Postdoctoral fellows are not appointed as employees and as their fellowships are awarded tax-free, they are not eligible for employee benefits. The University reserves the right NOT to make an appointment if suitable candidates do not apply.
- Note: If the contract is for two years, this will be subject to the availability of funds and satisfactory academic progress (annual performance reviews must be held).

About AGCAE

AGCAE is a new research-intensive centre in the School of Public Leadership (SPL), within the faculty of Economic and Management Sciences. The AGCAE creates, integrates and diffuses knowledge to improve data-and-dialogue driven entrepreneurial ecosystem development in Africa in order to increase well-being of communities with entrepreneurship.

The vision of the Centre is to enable entrepreneurship-led development in Africa with a data-and-dialogue driven entrepreneurial ecosystem approach. To achieve this, the Centre has the following strategic priorities:

1. Create and integrate entrepreneurial ecosystem data of African countries and regions.
2. Analyse and interpret entrepreneurial ecosystem data of African countries and regions.

3. Develop and communicate scientifically rigorous and societally relevant entrepreneurial ecosystem research.
4. Create a platform for stakeholders that provide and use entrepreneurial ecosystem data and knowledge in Africa (including academics, governments, entrepreneurship service providers, entrepreneurship associations, philanthropies, NGOs, venture capitalists).
5. Contribute to the development of entrepreneurship and economic development scholarship in Africa.

END.