

Prof Azwihangwisi Helen Mavhandu-Mudzusi

Professor Mavhandu-Mudzusi is a Professor in the Department of Health Studies and the Chairperson of the Research Ethics Committee of the College of Human Sciences at the University of South Africa (UNISA).

Azwihangwisi Helen Mavhandu-Mudzusi was born at Tshiozwi, Ha Sinthumule, a rural village in Former Venda Homeland. She attended her primary school at a rural school at Tshizwi, proceeded to Sinthumule High school until she passed grade 10, and proceeded at Tshiemuemu high school where she passed her grade 12.

She started her professional journey as a Nurse at Siloam hospital in 1982 where she went through the ranks from being a student nurse to Chief Professional Nurse.

Azwihangwisi Mavhandu-Mudzusi is Full Professor at the University of South Africa. She is NRF C rated researcher with 33 peer-reviewed publications, a book chapter and 25 peer-reviewed conference papers and a winner of 2017 Distinguished Women Scientist Award. She was an HIV/AIDS coordinator at the University of Venda immediately prior, where she trained students and educators in basic HIV/AIDS information. She also trained educators in Limpopo Province in basic HIV/AIDS counselling skills for orphans and vulnerable children and is deeply involved in rural community service work, which includes HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns at rural secondary schools, churches and orphanages.

Prof Mavhandu-Mudzusi is a fellow of M.A.C. AIDS Fund Leadership initiative at Columbia University, the University of California and the Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa.

She holds several diplomas, advanced diplomas and degrees in nursing, including an Honours and master's degree. She is deeply involved in the advocacy and support for Lesbians, Gays, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) students in rural institutions of Higher Learning.

She is the principal investigator in a collaborative cross-national research project with the University of Liège, and Alliant International University, on the attitudes of heterosexual university students towards same sex marriage and parenting. She has successfully supervised 7 PhDs and 26 Masters students to completion.

She is the holder of the following awards:

2019: Finalist: Standard Bank Top Women Awards: Top Women in Science.

2018: Chancellor's Award of Excellence in Research: College of Human Sciences. University of South Africa

2017: Women in Science Award: Distinguished Women Scientist (National Department of Science and Technology).

2016: Women's award for excellence in research: Leadership in research (University of South Africa).

