

Michelle was born and educated in Port Elizabeth. She is one of five children of Lovell and Ruth Mey. All the children attended Charlo Primary School and Pearson High School and are products of either the Port Elizabeth Technikon or the former University of Port Elizabeth.

As a young adult she was involved in Rotaract and for many years led the committee that organized the annual Uncle Jumbos party which included a party for underprivileged and disabled children.

Started her career after studying at the University of Port Elizabeth with Spoornet. Worked for 5 and half years as assistant Human Resources manager and managed the training centre. Was instrumental in implementing supervisory skills course for middle managers across the region, strengthening the ABET focus in the region and developing the training function and centre for the local region.

Whilst at Spoornet she also was involved in the provincial committee for the Institute of People Management and was chairperson for several years. Under her leadership the branch won the national award for branch of the year.

Joined the PE Technikon in 1996 and completed her M.Tech in self-directed work teams and her D.Tech in the Role of Human Resource Department in improving the ethical environment in an organisation. Currently her research area is toxic leadership which is actually a spinoff of the doctoral thesis. .

As a senior HR academic at Nelson Mandela University, Prof Mey played a pivotal role in advancing the field of HR Management, not only in the Eastern Cape, but also throughout South Africa. For instance, she played a key role in providing inputs into national HR position papers on various aspects ranging from ethics to HR governance. In 2016 she was one of the pioneers developing the first set of labour market scenarios for South Africa for 2030. This strategic project aligned to the National Development Plan of 2030 facilitated by top scenario expert, Clem Sunter attracted interest from all over the world.

In addition, she played a pioneering role in growing the Nelson Mandela Bay HR Forum in the Eastern Cape by establishing a network forum when chairperson of the IPM. Not only did this forum provide valuable networking opportunities for HR professionals from leading companies such as Volkswagen, Coca-Cola and Goodyear, through her inputs Nelson Mandela University as a higher education institution was always positioned as a key stakeholder in industry liaison and professional impact. Her contribution in driving work-integrated learning has been exemplary and a best practice for other institutions to follow.

At a national level Prof Mey made a significant contribution to developing the science and practice of HR Management. As a researcher and research supervisor she conducted and managed several research projects, including ground-breaking research on the development of HR ethics models. Her papers were presented at several national and international conferences. She has received the Faculty's Integrative Researcher of the year award for 2017 which highlights her ability to bring people from different disciplines, faculties and research areas together.

Moreover, as academic leader Prof Mey was responsible for capacity building of other professionals, as well as driving sound HR practice in the workplace, in addition to providing inputs on several policy and governance matters affecting HR. Prof Mey also participated in national curriculum development projects as part of the HR University Forum, a sub-committee of the SABPP Higher Education Committee involving formalised benchmarking among 17 universities nationally.

Prof Mey is regarded by HR professionals as a forward-thinking individual and a key contributor to the transformation of HR's response to business. Her contribution to the HR profession is testimony to the philosophy that research and HR practice can lead to reflective practitioners, and thereby contributed significantly to advancing the HR profession throughout the country and abroad. She already provided leadership in the HR profession at a senior academic and professional level, and is clearly one of the top HR academics and managers in the country.

In terms of social engagement, she implemented the pay it forward project in 2008 and this has become part of the curriculum for HRM students. This project and many others in the faculty was showcased in February during our faculty's first ever-social engagement colloquium. Michelle and her team organized this highly successful showcase. She has implemented numerous initiatives that aims to improve student engagement and success.

The senior HR professional positions occupied by her former students serve as the best evidence of the results of her work as a senior academic in the Eastern Cape. Her commitment to HR professionalism and ethics positioned her as a role model for others to follow.

Currently director of the School of Industrial Psychology and HR

On a personal level - she participates in a twice weekly swim squad and enjoys Pilates (sometimes fakes enjoying it).