

LANCHE VAN TONDER

Head: Residence Management & Student Life | Higher Education and Association Leadership

Pretoria, South Africa | [linkedin.com/in/lanchevt](https://www.linkedin.com/in/lanchevt)

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Senior higher education and association leader with extensive experience in residence life, student leadership, governance, and professional development within complex university and international association environments. Provides strategic leadership for 29 residential communities supporting approximately 8,000 students at the University of Pretoria, and brings executive board experience through ACUHO-I, regional leadership through IASAS and ACUHO-I Southern Africa, and sector-building leadership as Co-Director of the Roelf Visser Student Housing Training Institute. Combines institutional leadership, global engagement, legal training, and doctoral research in leadership to contribute to board governance, external representation, member development, and the long-term strategic direction of the profession.

EDUCATION

PhD in Leadership (Candidate) | University of Pretoria

Research focus: relational leadership in higher education student communities.

MPhil in Leadership (cum laude) | University of Pretoria

Research focus: leadership, identity, power, and systemic injustice in higher education.

LLB (Bachelor of Laws) | University of Pretoria

Grounding in legal reasoning, governance, policy interpretation, compliance, and critical analysis.

CORE QUALIFICATIONS & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Head: Residence Management & Student Life | University of Pretoria | Pretoria, South Africa

April 2015 – Present

- Provide strategic and operational leadership for 29 residences accommodating approximately 8,000 students within an institution of nearly 60,000 students.
- Lead residence governance, student leadership development, conduct processes, crisis response, communication, and community-building initiatives that strengthen belonging, accountability, and holistic student development.
- Guide policy-aligned decision making, stakeholder engagement, and cross-functional service delivery across student-facing functions, with responsibility for complex cases involving wellbeing, discipline, and community risk.
- Advance institution-wide priorities through projects and initiatives related to academic support, sport, culture, leadership development, occupancy planning, and the residential student experience.

Globalization Director | Association of College and University Housing Officers-International (ACUHO-I)

January 2023 – December 2025

- Served on the Executive Board of ACUHO-I, contributing to board-level governance, policy direction, and long-term strategic priorities.
- Acted as the Association's principal advisor on international strategy and global sector engagement, helping align international partnerships and regional relationships with ACUHO-I priorities.
- Served as liaison to regional affiliates in the United Kingdom, South Africa, and Australia, strengthening collaboration, knowledge exchange, and international visibility across the profession.
- Represented ACUHO-I in external and international spaces, advancing relationships among housing professionals across different national and regional contexts.

Regional Director, Southern Africa | International Association of Student Affairs and Services (IASAS)

January 2026 – Present

- Provide regional leadership within a global association that advocates for students, student affairs and services practitioners, and the profession internationally.
- Represent Southern African and African student affairs perspectives within IASAS and contribute to the Association's broader strategic direction and international engagement.
- Strengthen collaboration, dialogue, and professional connection across institutions and networks, supporting sector development, visibility, and participation within global initiatives.

Executive Head: Staff Development | ACUHO-I Southern African Chapter (ACUHO-I SAC)

January 2021 – Present

- Lead strategic staff development within the only student housing professional association body in Southern Africa, with an advisory and developmental role in the sector.
- Guide professional development initiatives that respond to evolving sector demands and workforce needs, including competencies, continuing education, recruitment, retention, and standards of practice.
- Contribute to professionalization efforts that strengthen workforce sustainability and long-term capacity within student housing and student affairs in the region.

Co-Director, Roelf Visser Student Housing Training Institute | ACUHO-I Southern African Chapter (ACUHO-I SAC)

January 2022 – Present

- Provide strategic leadership for a regional institute focused on the development and professionalization of student housing practitioners in Southern Africa.
- Support annual delivery of a formal professional learning program serving approximately 70 participants and 12 faculty, combining local and international perspectives.
- Help shape curriculum, faculty engagement, and cross-regional dialogue that strengthen professional competencies, staff development, and leadership pipelines across the region.

SELECTED BOARD AND SECTOR CONTRIBUTIONS

- Strengthened Southern Africa's visibility and voice within ACUHO-I through advocacy, professional development, and cross-regional engagement.
- Built and expanded partnerships and training opportunities that increased international involvement, broadened professional learning, and created development pathways for staff and students.
- Advanced staff development and broader sector dialogue through regional association leadership, international representation, and institute-based professional learning.

SELECTED RECOGNITION AND PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- Recipient, ACUHO-I Roelf Visser Global Initiatives Award (2026), recognizing commitment to expanding ACUHO-I's reach and influence across regions, the continent, and the world.
- Presenter at professional conferences, including international platforms, on themes related to student housing, governance, leadership development, and global engagement.
- Supervisor of MPhil candidates in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, University of Pretoria, providing academic guidance and research mentorship.