



higher education
& training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



October 2024–January 2025 - Volume 75

The Official Quarterly College and SETA Times Publication



THE NEWLY APPOINTED NSFAS BOARD





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Congratulations to the First Year University and College Students! Welcome to the Post School Education System



Lucky Masuku, Acting Chief Director: Corporate Communications and Media Liaison

As you step into this exciting new chapter of your life, as the Department of Higher Education and Training Family we extend our heartfelt congratulations to you and your family.

This is a significant milestone in your life. The beginning of a journey towards a better life. It is a journey resulting from years of sacrifices, hard work, dedication, and perseverance.

Entering a university or college is a momentous occasion. It marks the beginning of a new era filled with

opportunities for learning and growth.

University or College life is certainly an exciting experience. You will meet new friends, discover new ideas and explore new passions.

Remember that it is okay to feel both excited and nervous. Embrace every experience, because every lesson learned will help you grow as a whole person and build the resilience needed for the future.

The time you will spend at the University or College will afford

you the opportunity to expand your horizons. Take advantage of every class, every extracurricular activity, and every networking event. Seek out internships, volunteering opportunities, and experiences that will prepare you for the world beyond university/college.

While you commence with the exciting new chapter of your life, a hectic academic schedule as well as other new experiences, please be mindful of your mental health and your overall wellbeing. Our Post School Education System offers variety of support programmes where required. These various support services are available at your institution's Student Support Services Department. You are encouraged to visit these offices.

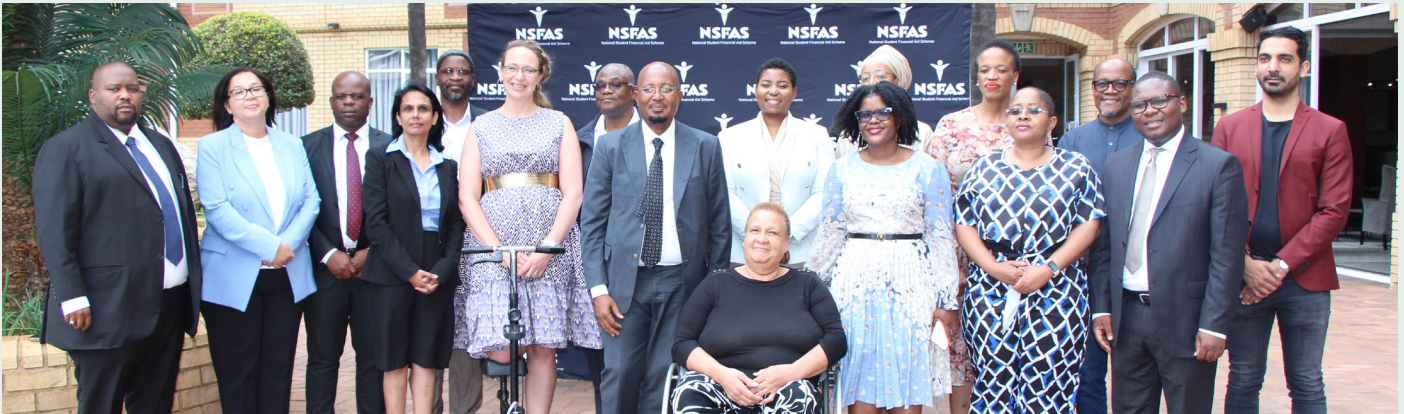
This year is just the beginning. The knowledge and skills you gain will open doors to countless career opportunities and personal achievements. You have the chance to pursue your dreams, no matter how challenging they may seem. So, as you enter this new phase, remember to believe in yourself, stay focused on your goals and never be afraid to ask for help when you need it.

Once again, congratulations! Your hard work has paid off and the best is yet to come.

Welcome to the University and College life and here's to the many exciting experiences that await you!

Statement on the appointment of the NSFAS board by the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Nobuhle Nkabane

Supplied by Boitumelo Seimela



DHET leadership and the newly appointed NSFAS board during the Board's induction session

The Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Nobuhle Nkabane, is pleased to announce the appointment of the new board of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS). The appointment underpins the Minister's unwavering commitment to ensuring that NSFAS is led by highly qualified individuals with the expertise necessary to drive efficiency, accountability and transparency.

Recognising the pivotal role that NSFAS plays in enabling access to higher education, Minister Nkabane has prioritised the swift appointment of a board that meets stringent professional and academic criteria. This matter has been of national interest and the Minister remains steadfast in her commitment to reforming the institution to benefit South African students.

The Honourable Minister, Dr Nobuhle Pamela Nkabane, emphasises that NSFAS is a critical institution requiring the highest expertise and ethical leadership. The qualification standards for board appointments have been significantly raised to achieve this. Members appointed to the board possess a minimum qualification of a master's degree and extensive professional experience in finance, law, engineering or governance. This strategic approach ensures that NSFAS is managed by individuals with the necessary expertise to navigate financial

and administrative complexities while upholding transparency and efficiency.

In line with this commitment, the board's composition reflects the values of inclusivity, youth empowerment and gender representation. The newly appointed members meet the stringent qualification requirements and embody a diverse and representative leadership team dedicated to transforming higher education funding. Minister Nkabane further reiterates the government's dedication to building a strong and credible NSFAS that functions efficiently and restores public confidence. By selecting individuals with proven expertise and experience, NSFAS will operate with integrity, prioritise student needs and effectively deliver on its mandate. This appointment signals a firm stance on governance reforms within NSFAS and sets a precedent for accountability in state-funded institutions. The Department remains committed to ensuring that NSFAS supports deserving students while upholding principles of fairness, transparency and efficiency.

The newly appointed NSFAS Board members are:

Board Chairperson

Dr Karen Stander – Education

Dr Karen Stander, a senior lecturer in the Department of Business Management at Unisa's College of Economic and

Management Sciences (CEMS), has been appointed as the Chairperson of the NSFAS board. With over 13 years in academia and a PhD in Business Management from the University of Pretoria, Dr Stander brings extensive experience in student empowerment, innovation and entrepreneurship. She is committed to fostering an efficient, well-governed NSFAS that ensures sustainable student funding.

Board Members

Ms Ndileka Portia Loyilane: Board Member (Public Administration)

Ms Portia Loyilane holds a degree in Commerce and a Master's degree in Disability Studies. With extensive experience in industrial and economic development, she has served in key provincial government roles, advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities. Ms Loyilane is regarded as a leading voice in disability advocacy and has chaired several initiatives, including the Disabled Women's Development Programme.

Adv. Richardt Tlou Ramashia: Board Member (Legal)

Advocate Ramashia is an admitted advocate of the High Court, holding an LLB from the University of Limpopo and a Master's degree in Corporate Law from Unisa. With a background in public service and legal advisory roles, he has served as a legal advisor to various municipalities and held

leadership positions in governance bodies, including the Limpopo Consumer Affairs Court and the Polokwane Housing Association.

**Adv. Lavandran Nanda Gopaul:
Board Member (Legal)**

Advocate Lavandran Gopaul, a seasoned legal expert, holds multiple qualifications, including an MPA from Harvard University, an LLM from Boston University, and an LLB from UKZN. As a finance and law expert, he has extensive experience in fund management, stockbroking and business consulting. Adv. Gopaul has also served as a finance and economics commentator on various media platforms, bringing strategic financial expertise to the board.

**Ms Philisiwe Sibiya: Member
(Accounting, CA [SA])**

Ms Philisiwe Sibiya is a renowned business leader with over 20 years of experience in financial and corporate leadership. As a business conglomerate's founder, director, and CEO, she has demonstrated unparalleled financial acumen and industry expertise. Ms Sibiya's career milestones include serving as the first female CEO of a major corporation, where she spearheaded transformative financial strategies. Her extensive leadership in multinational corporations has positioned her as a trailblazer driving financial sustainability and governance.

**Ms Clarinda Elizabeth Simpson:
Member (Accounting, CA [SA])**

Clarinda Simpson is a Chartered Accountant with over 21 years of experience in financial management, including 16 years at an executive level. She has held CFO positions at various organisations, including ICASA, the Media Development & Diversity Agency, and the South African Diamond and Precious Metals Regulator. She has also served as a Non-Executive Director at ARMSCOR, where she chaired the Audit & Risk Committee. Currently, she is the CFO of the Independent Development Trust and a Council member of the Vaal University of Technology, where she chairs the Audit and Risk Committee.

**Ms Prashika Mahesh: Member
(Accounting, CA [SA])**

Prashika Mahesh is a Chartered Accountant specialising in Enterprise Risk, Business Continuity Management and Compliance. She has extensive experience in internal audit, fraud risk management, forensics and compliance, playing a strategic role in guiding organisations toward their objectives. She is known for her strong communication and interpersonal skills, which have been instrumental in dealing with external stakeholders such as retailers, insurers and loss adjusters.

**Dr Siyanda Mngadi: Member
(Governance)**

Dr Siyanda Mngadi holds a PhD in Geophysics from the University of the Witwatersrand and has published peer-reviewed papers in international journals. He has experience in asset management, mining and energy sectors and has served as an executive manager responsible for mergers and acquisitions in the investment industry. He is the Managing Director of Ntuthuko Resources and has served as a non-executive director for several mining-related companies. His expertise includes geophysical exploration and financial investment in the mining sector.

**Ms Karabo Mohale: Member
(Governance)**

Karabo Mohale is a Development Specialist with a Master of Arts in Development Studies from the University of Sussex (UK) and a BCom Honours in Marketing. She currently serves as the Executive Deputy Chairperson of the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and has extensive governance experience. She has served on the Council of the Tshwane University of Technology and the Gauteng Liquor Board and currently chairs the Board of the Tshwane Institute for Continuing Education. Mohale also serves on the Audit and Risk Committee of the OR Tambo School of Leadership.

**Dr Johanna Maphutha: Member
(Education)**

Dr Johanna Maphutha holds a PhD in Education Leadership and Management from the University of

Johannesburg and has over 24 years of experience in strategic leadership, social research and education. She specialises in community responsibility initiatives and has multiple publications on education and social investment. She holds a Master's in Science and Technology Education from the University of Pretoria and a Business Management certification from Milpark Business School. Her career reflects a strong commitment to community development and education policy.

**Dr Mugwena Maluleke: Member
(Education)**

Dr Mugwena Maluleke is a teacher, unionist and social justice activist currently serving as the President of Education International. He is also the General Secretary of the South African Democratic Teachers Union (SADTU). His leadership is focused on advocating for public education, labour rights, and social justice. He is actively involved in the Go Public! Fund Education campaign, which calls for governments to invest in education as a catalyst for economic and social transformation.

**Dr Marcia Socikwa: Member -
DDG: University Education (DHET
Representative)**

Dr Marcia Socikwa holds degrees from the University of the Witwatersrand, City University and Stirling University. She has worked extensively in telecommunications, higher education, and governance. Currently, she serves as a Deputy Director-General at the Department of Higher Education and Training, overseeing governance, funding, and transformation for public and private institutions, NSFAS, and national education councils. She is a strong proponent of good governance, data analytics and social justice.

These appointments mark a significant step in strengthening NSFAS as an institution that upholds integrity, accountability, and efficiency in delivering financial aid to deserving students. The Minister remains committed to ensuring that NSFAS fulfils its mandate of making higher education more accessible to South Africans.

Navigating the Future: Minister Nkabane's Vision for 2025 Academic Year

Supplied by Boitumelo Seimela



From Left: DHET Deputy Minister Buti Manamela, Minister Nobuhle Nkabane and Director-General Nkosinathi Sishi

Higher Education and Training Minister Nobuhle Nkabane laid out a comprehensive vision that aims not only to address the challenges of the incoming academic year, but also to assess the readiness of South Africa's Post-School Education and Training sector for the 2025 academic year and embrace the opportunities that lie ahead in a pivotal meeting held on 22 to 23 January 2025. Minister Nkabane was supported by Deputy Minister, Buti Manamela, Executive Management from DHET and National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS).

Gathering stakeholders from universities, TVET colleges, and various educational organisations, the Minister highlighted the importance of unity in tackling the complexities of student registration processes, a challenge that grows with each passing year, especially following the success of the matriculants from the Class of 2024.

"While I acknowledge the overwhelming performance of 2024 Grade 12 pass rate and the competitive process of securing learning spaces, I envision a smooth registration process," she remarked, stressing the urgency of aligning efforts across the sector. This call for collaboration resonated throughout the meeting, emphasising that the

responsibility for a seamless transition to higher education lies collectively with all institutions involved.

The Minister took a moment to celebrate the impressive matric pass rate of 87,3% for the Class of 2024, framing it as a watershed moment for the nation's educational aspirations. Minister Nkabane pointed out that of those who passed, many achieved a bachelor's pass, essential for accessing degree courses. This success not only reflects academic dedication, but also emphasises the urgency for educational institutions to prepare adequately for an influx of first-year students eager to take their next steps in higher education.

The meeting served as a pivotal moment for institutions to reflect upon their individual capacities and resources while fostering an environment conducive to collaborative problem-solving. The Minister underscored that it is crucial to welcome these new learners into an educational ecosystem that values inclusivity, accessibility and support.

The impending increase in enrolled students is not only a logistical challenge; it also necessitates discussions around funding and resource allocation. The presentation by Mr Freeman Nomvalo, Administrator of NSFAS, was particularly critical in this regard. His insights regarding student funding, application processes, and accommodation would illuminate potential bottlenecks that could affect new students' access to necessary financial resources.

Deputy Minister Buti Manamela delivered his closing remarks to the stakeholder engagement meeting thanking every stakeholder for their attendance and for providing solid contributions. He emphasised on working together to ensure that the 2025 academic year is smooth.



SATVETSA student leadership posing questions during the stakeholder engagement meeting

2025 Bogus Colleges Awareness Campaign - Clamping down on bogus colleges

Supplied by Oscar Mukhoro

The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) in collaboration with the City of Johannesburg, recently conducted unannounced visits to private higher education institutions in Braamfontein, Johannesburg to verify their registration and compliance statuses.

The bogus awareness campaign was led by Higher Education and Training Deputy Minister Mimmy Gondwe accompanied by officials from DHET and the City of Johannesburg. The campaign aimed at educating the public about the importance of verifying the registration status of private higher education institutions before enrolling.

Deputy Minister Gondwe emphasised that ongoing awareness campaigns are vital to safeguard unsuspecting students and parents from falling victim to illegal higher education institutions. Dr Mimmy Gondwe conducted surprise inspections at Gauteng City College and The Finishing College in Braamfontein to verify their registration status and ensure compliance with higher education regulations.

Although the colleges visited were registered with the Department of Higher Education and Training, they were found to be non-compliant with the City of Johannesburg's occupational health and safety standards.

"As a department, we are committed to provide not only quality teaching and learning experience but also a safe and secure environment for everyone. That is why we have the City of Johannesburg officials with us; their health and safety compliance checks will help ensure that we meet these important standards," said Dr Mimmy Gondwe.



Dr Mimmy Gondwe engaging with the media during the bogus college campaign



Deputy Minister Mimmy Gondwe, Director of Private Higher Education, Dr Shaheeda Essack and Johannesburg municipality officials conducting compliance inspection at private higher learning colleges in Braamfontein

Furthermore, Deputy Minister Mimmy Gondwe indicated that going forward it is important for law enforcement agencies such as the South African Police Services and National Prosecuting Authority to join the awareness campaigns as they are essential stakeholders in clamping down on bogus colleges.

Dr Gondwe urged private institutions to adhere to compliance standards, giving institutions a chance to rectify issues before involving law enforcement. She also urged students and parents to verify the registration status of colleges with the Department to avoid being victims of bogus institutions.

Through the engagement Dr Mimmy Gondwe emphasised that students have numerous alternatives for higher education beyond universities. She urged students to consider Community Education and Training (CET) and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges offering practical skills training and education.

In her closing remarks, Deputy Minister Mimmy Gondwe emphasised the importance of collective action against bogus colleges. She extended an invitation to other stakeholders to join the upcoming awareness campaign, recognising a unified crucial effort in combating illegal private higher education institutions.

Free State CET College hosts GETC Awards Ceremony

Supplied by Nombulelo Kota

The Free State Community Education and Training College recently hosted the General Education and Training Certificate (GETC) Awards and Certification Ceremony at Imvelo Safari Lodge outside Bloemfontein. The event celebrated the academic achievements of students who completed their GETC.

The GETC Awards and Certificate Ceremony is a hallmark event in the Community Education and Training (CET) sector, aimed at celebrating the academic achievements of the students who have successfully completed their GETC.

The ceremony was graced by the notable guests, including the Mangaung Metro Municipality Mayor, Councilor Nthatsi, the Deputy Director-General responsible for CET Colleges Ms Thembisa Futshane, other Senior Managers of the Department and former Free State CET SRC Chairperson, Vusi Gama, who shared his inspiring academic journey. Despite being expelled from school, the CET sector provided him with a second chance to pursue his studies.

Vusi's remarkable journey began with the General Education and Training Certificate programme, where he achieved distinctions. The CET sector further supported him in obtaining his matriculation certificate, opening doors to new opportunities.

He enrolled at Maluti TVET College and Majuba TVET College, excelling with distinctions. Currently, Vusi is pursuing a bachelor's degree in education at Tshwane University of Technology (TUT). He obtained distinctions in his first year at TUT and is currently in his second year.

Vusi emphasised the significance of the CET sector, stating that it offers the standard-quality education that every learner deserves. He urged that the sector should be taken seriously, recognising its potential in transforming people's lives.

Vusi's story serves as a testament to the CET sector's impact, providing a second chance for individuals to achieve their academic goals and succeed.

Deputy Minister Buti Manamela delivered the keynote address, congratulating the graduates on their hard work and dedication. Manamela commended the Free State CET College for recognising the achievements of its students, lecturers and centre managers. He emphasised the importance of providing career guidance to help students navigate their options beyond the GETC. Manamela also highlighted the Department's objective to increase access to post-school opportunities, ensuring that youth and adults acquire employable skills.



Deputy Minister Manamela addressing the Free State CET GETC Awards and Certification Ceremony at Imvelo Safari Lodge, Bloemfontein

He stressed that CET colleges play a vital role in developing adults and out-of-school youth, enabling them to reach their full potential and participate in economic development.

He also emphasised the need for digitisation, online, and hybrid forms of provision to cater for the needs of out-of-school youth and adults. Deputy Minister Manamela urged TVET colleges to reserve spaces for GETC students, providing them with a clear pathway to further education and training.

The event concluded with the presentation of awards to top performing students, lecturers, and centres. One of the awardees, Ms Malete Ditsewane, received a certificate, trophy, tablet and school bag for being one of the top 100 best-performing students.



Distinguished guests and proud recipients at the Free State CET GETC Awards and Certification Ceremony

Minister Nkabane impressed with the smooth registration process at UKZN

Supplied by Mahlatse Galane



From Left: Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nana Poku, the DHET Director-General Nkosinathi Sishi, Minister Nobuhle Nkabane and NSFAS Board member, Advocate Lavan Gopaul

Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Nobuhle Nkabane, accompanied by the Director-General Dr Nkosinathi Sishi, Deputy Director-Generals Dr Marcia Socikwa and Mr Sam Zungu, together with other DHET senior managers as well as National Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) representatives recently visited the University of KwaZulu-Natal for the ministerial oversight.

The purpose of the visit was to assess the registration processes and the overall readiness of the institution for the 2025 academic year and in finding possible solutions affecting the students especially with funding issues.

“As much as we are sitting currently at 2,1 billion rands on student debt, but the university does not charge any interest on student debt, the majority of our institutions are accumulating interests out of the debt which is very worrying, worse in this kind of economy, because as South Africa we are more of a developing economy, we understand the struggles that our people are facing on the ground, we should be responsive and try to meet our government’s priorities halfway.

We are told again today that the NSFAS funded students are sitting at 75%, however funding decisions have not been concluded which is a worrying factor on my side,” said Minister Nkabane responding to the Chief Financial Officer’s report on NSFAS funding status.

Minister Nkabane continued to urge universities to send concluded registration information of students to NSFAS promptly, as this will avoid delays. She applauded the relationship between the management and student organisation.



Minister Nkabane engages with students during her walkabout at the University of KwaZulu-Natal

Deputy Minister Gondwe Visits Free State For Oversight Monitoring Of PSET System

Supplied by Nomkhosi Hlatshwayo

Deputy Minister Mimmy Gondwe visits the Goldfields TVET College, Tosa Campus and Central University of Technology in Welkom for the state of readiness monitoring of institutions in the PSET sector on 31 January 2025.

The visit forms part of the Department of Higher Education and Training's oversight and monitoring efforts to assess the state of readiness of higher education institutions ahead of the 2025 academic year.



Deputy Minister Mimmy Gondwe delivering her state of address at Goldfields TVET College

During her keynote address Deputy Minister Mimmy Gondwe appreciated the warm welcome she received from the principals of Goldfields TVET College and the Central University of Technology (CUT). She also expressed gratitude to the officials from the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) for accompanying her on the visit. Their presence allowed them to address student queries and provide assistance.

Deputy Minister Gondwe stressed the importance of readiness to be able to evaluate the institutions' preparedness for the upcoming academic year, urging both institutions to present their state of readiness and current challenges. She expressed concern about student accommodation issues

and outstanding NSFAS debt from the previous year.

Dr Gondwe emphasised that to address these challenges there's much need to rebrand colleges, making them more attractive to students beyond just universities and should not be viewed as secondary options. She believes TVET colleges are capable of producing the artisans the country needs.

Dr Gondwe encouraged principals to prioritise permanent employment opportunities for students when forming partnerships with private sectors. This would ensure students secure employment beyond just practical experience. She also emphasised the importance of collaboration to ensure the success of the GNU.

The two institutions showcased their campuses and reported on their state of readiness, confirming their preparedness for the upcoming academic year. However, they acknowledged persistent challenges, including: Student accommodation shortage, inadequate infrastructure and historical debt totalling R15 million. Representing the student body,

the Student Representative Council (SRC) Presidents from both institutions vocalised the concerns of struggling students, emphasising the need for urgent solutions.

Princess Thoabala, the Goldfields TVET SRC President, expressed deep concern about the safety and well-being of students on campus. Despite being in 2025, students still face significant threats, including robbery, harassment, assault and Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Female students, in particular, suffer in silence due to fear of not being taken seriously or perpetrators going unpunished.

Moreover, Ms Thoabala highlighted NSFAS's failure to support students adequately. Delays in payments, unexplained rejections, and outstanding balances have become a recurring issue, particularly for NATED students. This has resulted in students struggling to afford basic necessities like food, transport, and rent, with some even being forced to drop out. Ms Thoabala emphasised the urgent need for NSFAS to implement strict accountability measures to prevent administrative failures from harming students. The goal is to ensure that no student suffers due to systemic inefficiencies.



Deputy Minister Mimmy Gondwe engaging with various officials of the institution at Goldfields TVET College in Welkom

Deputy Minister Manamela visits Northern Cape institutions of higher learning

Supplied by Mahlatse Galane

Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mr Buti Manamela, recently conducted the ministerial oversight visit to the Northern Cape institutions of higher learning. He visited Urban TVET College, Sol Plaatje University and Helen Joseph Community Learning Centre, Galeshewe Satellite.

The purpose of the visit was to assess the registration processes, as well as gain insight about the overall state of affairs in the institutions, including state of readiness for the 2025 academic year, challenges faced by students including funding amongst other things.

Deputy Minister Manamela was accompanied by senior managers in the Department of Higher Education and Training, representatives from National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), Technical Vocational Education and Training, Community Education and Training and University branch. Engagements were centred around the challenges faced by students mostly on funding and other critical issues affecting all stakeholders with possible solutions and improvements.

"Our visit is mainly to get a sense of the stability in our institutions, issues relating to admissions, have the classes started and of course in many of our TVET colleges classes have already started, the meeting between student representatives' union SATVETSA, DDG Zungu and Minister Nkabane was quite helpful. We are here with NSFAS, if there are any issues they will be able to resolve them," said Deputy Minister Manamela.

Deputy Minister's first stop was at the Northern Cape Urban TVET College, city campus. Both Northern Cape TVET colleges gave detailed presentations on their state of readiness.



Meet and greet by Deputy Minister Manamela with Sol Plaatje University SRC members during his oversight visit

Principal of Northern Cape Rural TVET, Mr Percy Sago, highlighted the recent partnership by the College with Cape Peninsula University of Technology and South African Renewable Energy Technology Centre (SARETEC) echoing the Department's call for TVET colleges to collaborate and form partnerships with other higher learning institutions and the private sector in a bid to improve teaching and learning.

Northern Cape Urban TVET College Acting Deputy Principal Academic, Mrs Elizabeth Musi, highlighted the new milestone achieved by the College in introducing new courses aligned with the current economy of the province and of the country including the cell phone repairs that is currently open for 2025 intake.

"I would like to applaud the financial aid scheme on their improvement in responding to students at this college and I plead with Deputy Minister Manamela to align the academic calendar and the NSFAS calendar to avoid delays in teaching and learning," said South African Technical

Vocational Education and Training Students Association Provincial Chairperson, Mr Shaun Laven.

The management of the Sol Plaatje University and student representative council member mapped out the challenges and success stories achieved by the institution since its inception. The main issue affecting the students is funding and it prompted the student leaders to launch "Thusa Moithuti" a trust fund that will assist students from disadvantaged backgrounds to register for the current academic year.

Deputy Minister Manamela's last stop was at the Galeshewe Satellite Campus where he engaged with the council chairperson, Dr Mahlobo and the Principal Mr Phillips. He praised the centre manager and the lecturers for the work being done to uplift the community, he later toured the computer lab and engaged with students who are studying computer literacy. He continued to emphasise the importance of partnerships within the sector.

The Annual NextGen careers Expo - North West Edition

Supplied by Oscar Mukhoro

The Department of Higher Education and Training took part in the Annual NextGen Career Expo - North West Edition, held at Rakoko High School in Mabeskraal on 31 January 2025. The event was organised by the South Brics Youth Association (SABYA) in collaboration with the Nkosi Minenkulu Joyi Foundation (NMJF) and Kgosi Mabe-O-Molopyane Foundation (KMMF).

The Annual NextGen Career Expo - North West Edition is a pioneering initiative aimed at bridging the gap between aspiring professionals and industry leaders. This impactful event provided a vital platform for high school learners to explore various career paths, sparking curiosity and inspiring future ambitions.

The primary target audience for the 2025 expo comprised 1 500 high school learners from Grade 9 to Grade 11 within the Dinaledi Circuit. By focusing on this demographic, the expo strives to make a meaningful difference in the lives of young individuals, particularly those from rural communities.

Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mr Buti Manamela led an interactive session on career paths, vocational education and entrepreneurship for Grade 10 and Grade 11 learners from various schools within the Dinaledi Circuit. The event aimed to empower learners with knowledge and tools to make informed decisions about their future. Industry leaders, education representatives and community leaders formed part of the Annual NextGen

Career Expo - North West Edition. In his keynote address, Deputy Minister Manamela emphasised that success is not exclusive to university education. He stated that while universities are ideal for pursuing degrees in law, medicine and engineering, Manamela highlighted the value of alternative pathways: Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges, learnerships and apprenticeships. He emphasised that these options provide students with hands-on skills training, offering a robust foundation for future success.

Deputy Minister Buti Manamela highlighted the importance of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges in providing industry-ready skills. Institutions like Orbit TVET College and Taletso TVET College offer programmes in business, engineering, IT, hospitality and construction, preparing students for the workforce. "South Africa needs skilled professionals in multiple sectors and TVET colleges provide training that leads directly to employment," said Manamela.

Manamela encouraged learners to see entrepreneurship as a real option, highlighting industries such as agriculture, digital marketing and teaching trades as great spaces for young entrepreneurs. "Instead of looking for jobs, why not think about creating jobs, there are many young South Africans who have built businesses from small ideas and support is available to help new entrepreneurs grow," said Manamela.

He further highlighted that National Youth Development Agency and Small Development Agency, provide funding and mentorship for young business owners.

In his address, Manamela encouraged learners to align their career choices with in-demand skills, ensuring long-term employability. He pointed out the key fields currently in high demand in South Africa such as: Technology & Digital Skills: Software Developers, Data Scientists and Cybersecurity Experts. Engineering & Renewable Energy: Civil, Electrical, and Mechanical Engineers and Green Energy Technicians. Healthcare & Science: Nurses, Pharmacists and Lab Technicians. Business & Finance: Accountants, Financial Advisors and Business Consultants. Creative & Marketing Careers: Social Media Managers, Content Creators and Graphic Designers. Manamela advised learners to consider careers that will remain relevant in the next 10–20 years and seize opportunities to develop skills in these fields.

In his closing remarks, Deputy Minister Buti Manamela advised learners to take immediate action in exploring their future options. He encouraged them to research and engage with universities, TVET colleges, businesses and organisations to gain insight into various careers and industries. Manamela emphasised the importance of early preparation, urging learners to apply for funding and training opportunities. He also advised them to take small steps towards their goals by researching, networking and acquiring new skills.

Department outlines a 5-year strategic plan for TVET colleges

Supplied by Maropeng Ramokgobathi

The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), Northern and Western Cape (N&WC) Regional Office kick-started the year by hosting a Regional Exco Strategic Meeting setting the direction for 2025. Held in Upington in January, the meeting was hailed as a milestone, as it was the first time both the Deputy Director-General (DDG) for Community Education and Training (CET), Ms Thembisa Futshane, and the DDG for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Mr Sam Zungu, participated together in a Regional Exco Meeting. Their presence was seen as a significant step toward fostering stronger collaboration between CET and TVET colleges.

In his opening address, the Acting Regional Manager of N&WC region, Mr Brian Madalane, welcomed the DDGs, Acting Regional Manager for Eastern Cape, Mr Richard Mediroe, college principals, and staff. He highlighted that hosting such a session at the beginning of the year lays a foundation for improved college performance.

"This year promises to yield positive outcomes because we started the year in a right manner by asking ourselves what we are going to do. Hence, this session is about setting out what we are going to do and a proper plan to achieve our target."

"We started a year positively noting that our CET and TVET colleges, according to current report, have minimal irregularities and this spell out that the performance will improve," he said.

To ensure improvement, Mr Madalane cited active participation as a key approach. "Colleges, go out there and be part of the solutions and not part of the problems. The staff members must participate actively in their respective line of work to ensure the success of this Department."

DDG Zungu took the stage to outline the strategic focus areas for the TVET colleges (TVETs) for 2025–2030 period. He emphasised that aligning with these priorities will enhance the success of the Post-School Education and Training (PSET) sector, particularly in teaching and learning. The DDG shared that the Department has phased out Report 191 (NATED) programmes and is now focusing on the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO)-Accredited Occupational programmes. Explaining the rationale behind this transition, DDG Zungu said, "NATED Programmes are as good as gone. For decades the programmes have been the backbone of TVET curriculum. However, they have increasingly failed to meet the requirements of the modern industry, and this is due to the high growth in digital technology, green energy and advanced manufacturing."

The QCTO-Accredited Occupational Programmes learning outcomes are said to be linked directly to industry-specific tasks, measurable competencies and recognised pathways for employment or entrepreneurship. To ensure seamless transition from NATED to QCTO programmes, curriculum transformation and implementation of QCTO-Accredited Occupational Qualifications, the Department will focus on the following key areas:

Transition Plan for NATED Programmes

The establishment of Resources Allocation Framework will guide the allocation of resources, prioritising areas that require immediate attention to facilitate the transition. Additionally, comprehensive outreach programmes will be implemented to engage students, parents, and industry partners, ensuring transparency and support throughout the transition process.

Support for Lecturer Development

Continuous professional development

for lecturers will be prioritised, ensuring they are equipped with the latest pedagogical techniques and industry knowledge necessary to effectively teach the new QCTO-accredited qualifications.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Industry Alignment

Ongoing engagement with industry will ensure that curricula remain up to date to reflect emerging skills and technologies, improving student employability and workforce readiness.

Additionally, analytical feedback from stakeholders will allow TVET colleges to adapt programmes swiftly, ensuring alignment with labour market trends and employer expectations.

Assessing Institutional Readiness and Infrastructure

Conducting a thorough evaluation of existing facilities and resources is essential to identify gaps and prioritise improvements, ensuring that TVET colleges can effectively implement QCTO-accredited qualifications and meet industry standards.

Enhancing Artisan Development Capacity

Upgrading training facilities with modern equipment and technology is crucial for providing students with hands-on experience that meets current industry standards and practices effectively.

Implementing programmes that specifically address identified skill shortages to ensure that training aligns with labor market demands, enhancing employability for graduates in key trades.

Expanding Workplace Opportunities and Apprenticeships

Develop a unified framework for apprenticeships that outlines clear expectations, duration, and assessment criteria to ensure consistency across various industries.



DDG Sam Zungu delivering his address

PSETA Powers Careers with the Department of Home Affairs Cadet Programme

Supplied by Ntombi Fomana

As part of its unwavering commitment to the professionalisation of the public service, the Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority (PSETA) continues to champion initiatives that equip public servants with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in their roles. Professionalising the public service involves fostering a workforce that is not only skilled and competent but also committed to principles of ethical conduct, accountability, and service excellence. It is about transforming public institutions into pillars of efficiency and reliability, meeting the needs of citizens while upholding the highest standards of governance.

PSETA's mandate is to lead the charge in addressing the skills gaps within the public sector through targeted training and development programmes. By aligning these programmes with national priorities, such as the National Development Plan, PSETA ensures that public servants are well-prepared to tackle societal challenges and drive national development. This vision was brought to life through the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) Cadet Programme. This transformative initiative demonstrates how strategic investments in education and training can empower individuals and strengthen the country's public institutions.

An inspiring chapter unfolded recently as the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) Cadet Programme participants gathered to celebrate their farewell, marking the completion of a transformative learnership funded by the Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority (PSETA). The Cadet Programme, a groundbreaking initiative designed to align with the National Development Plan's goals, provided 60 unemployed learners with a unique blend of theoretical training and experiential learning. Accredited as a National Certificate in Home Affairs Services (NQF Level 5), the programme spanned 120 credits. It equipped participants with the essential skills to excel in the department's core business areas: Civic Services and Immigration Services.

Empowering Futures Through Skills Development

Funded entirely by PSETA at R4,94 million, the programme aimed to empower youth with the knowledge and experience to enter the labour market confidently. "This initiative demonstrates the potential of targeted investments in skills development to address unemployment and drive meaningful change," said PSETA CEO.

A Celebration of Achievement

The farewell event was more than a ceremony; it celebrated resilience, growth, and achievement. During the occasion, participants were encouraged to embrace the work environment with open communication, teamwork and collaboration. They were reminded of the importance of adhering to the prescripts – rules, procedures, policies, and regulations – that govern professional conduct.

"We are proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing how they apply their knowledge in building their careers and contributing to the nation," said a DHA representative.

Ms Mmatlou Matlou, a programme beneficiary, reflected on their journey, celebrating resilience, teamwork and professional growth during the PSETA AGM held on 21 November 2024.

"Our journey as cadets in the Home Affairs Cadets Learnership Programme, in partnership with PSETA, has been transformative. This experience has equipped us with vital skills and ignited our passion for public service. Despite the challenges we faced, including time away from loved ones and the complexities of our training, the support from the Department of Home Affairs and our mentors has been invaluable. We have learned that public service is not just a job; it is an opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

We are profoundly grateful for this initiative, which has opened doors to new possibilities and prepared us to be agents of change in our communities," said Matlou.

A Step Toward a Better Tomorrow

The programme's impact goes beyond skills training. It symbolises a commitment to unlocking opportunities for South Africa's youth, enabling them to become active societal contributors. By investing in initiatives like the Cadet Programme, PSETA and the Department of Home Affairs address unemployment and strengthen the country's public service capabilities.

As the cadets move forward, armed with knowledge and practical experience, their journey represents hope for many other young South Africans eager for similar opportunities.



Ms Mmatlou Matlou, a programme beneficiary

This programme is a testament to the transformative power of education, training, and collaboration in shaping a brighter future for the nation.

Fact Box: The Cadet Programme at a Glance

- **Qualification:** National Certificate in Home Affairs Services (NQF Level 5, 120 credits)
- **Funding:** R4 940 400,00 provided by PSETA
- **Participants:** 60 unemployed youth
- **Focus Areas:** Civic Services and Immigration Services

With its resounding success, the Home Affairs Cadet Programme stands as a powerful example of what can be achieved when strategic planning meets the commitment to youth empowerment.



DHA CADET Learnership Programme in collaboration with PSETA

LGSETA Embarks on a Transformative International Collaboration with China

Supplied by Thato Mabitsela



Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Nobuhle Nkabane addressing the gathering in China

The Local Government Sector Education and Training Authority (LGSETA) has reached an inspiring milestone, marking the beginning of a transformative chapter in skills development and international collaboration. LGSETA proudly launched its first international partnership initiative in Wuhan, China, in collaboration with the Chinese Culture and International Education Exchange Centre (CCIEEC) under the "Sister Cities" programme on 18 November 2024.

This groundbreaking project underscores LGSETA's commitment to addressing critical skills gaps within South Africa's local government sector.

Designed to empower municipal employees, unemployed youth, and entrepreneurs, the programme aims to build expertise in municipal infrastructure management, foster sustainable economic growth, enhance the quality of life for communities across the nation, and create greater impact through targeted interventions.

The journey to this historic launch began at the beginning of 2024 with the announcement of the International Exchange Programme. Various engagements and processes had to be conducted to ensure that the programme and participants adhered to the Chinese requirements.

The first cohort of participants departed for China, marking the beginning of this transformative experience in September 2024. Selected candidates for the Sister Cities collaboration programme, were drawn from all the District Municipalities across all nine provinces of South Africa and they will be participating in customised training and entrepreneurship opportunities designed to equip them with skills to uplift their communities.

Ahead of their departure, participants attended comprehensive orientation sessions, which outlined programme expectations and provided insight into China's cultural and professional landscape. These sessions also served to build camaraderie among participants from diverse backgrounds, united in their mission to bring back knowledge and skills to enhance South Africa's municipalities.

The culmination of these efforts was celebrated in grand style at the Wuhan Vocational College of Software and Engineering. The event was graced by high-profile dignitaries, including South Africa's Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Nobuhle Nkabane, the Director-General at DHET, Dr Nkosinathi Sishi, LGSETA CEO Mr Ineeleng Molete, the Deputy Mayor of Wuhan Municipal People's Government, SALGA President Cllr Bheke Stofile, Deputy President of SALGA, Cllr Flora Boltman, MMC Corporate Services from City of Johannesburg, Ms Loyiso Masuku and representatives from South African TVET colleges and universities.

Mr Ineeleng Molete captured the essence of the partnership, stating: "This collaboration is more than just a skills development programme;

it is a bridge between two nations committed to empowering individuals and driving sustainable development in their communities. Through this partnership, we are laying the foundation for lasting growth and innovation in South African municipalities."

Minister Nkabane's address further inspired participants to seize the opportunity, emphasising the value of knowledge exchange in building a skilled and capable local government workforce. Her words reinforced the programme's mission to foster sustainable economic growth through targeted interventions.

China, with its globally recognised advancements in technology, urban

development, and public service delivery, provides an ideal learning environment for South African participants. This programme represents an investment in people, a commitment to equipping professionals, unemployed youth, and entrepreneurs with the skills to address South Africa's unique municipal challenges.

The LGSETA-CCIEEC collaboration extends beyond skills training; it symbolises the power of international partnerships in achieving shared goals. By empowering participants to implement innovative solutions, the programme promises tangible improvements in service delivery, municipal efficiency and community upliftment.

With participants now fully engaged in the programme, LGSETA anticipates the ripple effect their experiences will create. The insights gained in China will enable them to introduce innovative practices, enhance service delivery, and drive sustainable economic growth within their municipalities and communities.

This initiative reflects LGSETA's dedication to bridging critical skills gaps through global collaboration, driving innovation, and sustainable development in local government. By prioritising education and skills transfer, the partnership paves the way for stronger municipalities and brighter futures for South African communities.



South African delegates in China

Giving back brings hope to a Limpopo CET College

Supplied by Adelaide Moshatana



Waterberg TVET College Principal, Khomotso Dipela and Selaelo Sebetlene, Acting Limpopo CET College Principal

The recent official handover ceremony of 108 refurbished school desks marks a significant milestone in the collaboration between Waterberg TVET College and the Limpopo Community Education and Training College (CETC). This event highlights the College's dedication to lend a helping hand and give hope to partners and community at large.

Principal of Waterberg TVET College, Khomotso Dipela, expressed her pride in the successful completion of this project. She emphasised the importance of such initiatives in enhancing the learning environment while demonstrating the power of collaboration. She highlighted how this partnership has provided students with practical experience, allowing them to apply theoretical

knowledge in real-world settings. The principal reiterated the College's commitment to empowering students through projects such as this one.

Selaelo Sebetlene, Limpopo CET College Acting Principal, also shared his enthusiasm for the project. He acknowledged the challenges faced by the CET sector, particularly regarding infrastructure, and expressed gratitude for the assistance provided by Waterberg TVET College. He highlighted the importance of continuing collaborations and suggested developing a skills programme where students could receive training from the College's Engineering and Skills Training Centre. This would enable students to gain valuable occupational skills, further contributing to community development.

This handover is not merely about desks; it represents a commitment to community service and skills development. The project exemplifies how educational institutions can work together to address local challenges, providing students with opportunities to learn and give back to their communities. This initiative sets a precedent for future projects that can drive skills development and create lasting impacts within the community.



Waterberg TVET and Limpopo CET Colleges' management at the official refurbished desks handover ceremony

CET, TVET colleges forge partnership to strengthen one another

Supplied by Maropeng Ramokgobathi

Community Education and Training (CET) colleges in the country play a vital role in reducing poverty and tackling the high cost of living as one of the key strategic priorities of the Government of National Unity. The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) has set a target to increase provision of skills/non-formal programmes from 6,2% to 15% by 2029 or end of the 7th Administration.

Speaking at the Northern and Western Cape Regional Executive Committee (EXCO) Meeting held in January 2025 in Upington, Northern Cape, the Deputy Director-General (DDG) for CET Branch, Ms Thembisa Futshane, highlighted challenges faced by the community colleges in improving teaching and learning. Before delving deeper into the challenges, she began by commending the Acting Regional Manager, Mr Brian Madalane, for inviting her and the DDG for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Branch, Mr Sam Zungu, to the session. Some of the challenges highlighted include inadequate infrastructure, land ownership and shortage of staff.

"We need TVET colleges to help us. We still don't have resources and capacity. On average, our colleges operate on 7 or 8 personnel. There is no college that can operate with that number of staff. So, our next reliance is CET colleges working with TVET colleges particularly on the examination area," she said.

DDG Futshane emphasised that CET colleges are not in competition with TVET colleges but require their collaborative partnership.

The Department is currently developing a strategic document to strengthen a collaborative relationship between the CET and TVET colleges. This document calls on TVET colleges to



DDG Thembisa Futshane addressing the meeting

support the development of CET colleges, particularly in areas such as infrastructure, examinations, and other key aspects.

The CET branch was allocated R1 billion for building new structures in every province. However, the allocated funds could only build 2 and a half structures, with the Northern Cape CET College (NCCETC) being one of the colleges to have secured funding. The new NCCET office will be built in Upington, with the construction expected to commence in April this year. The Western Cape CET College (WCCETC) has not secured land yet and the discussion with the landowners is ongoing.

To further enhance the quality of teaching and learning at community colleges, the DHET is working with Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) to digitalise learning materials.

"The aim is to rebrand our colleges. We want every CET Centre to have an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Laboratory in the next 2 to 3 years. We are working with both private and public funding partners to get funding for this project," said Ms Futshane.

In response to the adult needs in the CET sector, the Department is currently developing a new qualification called the National Senior Certificate for Adults, which serves as a matric equivalent for adults. The document is 80% developed and consists of 4 integrated subjects. The initiative aims to address the high number of South Africans who have not attained a matric qualification, many of whom are adults who cannot sit in traditional school settings or commit to a 12-year schooling journey to obtain their matric.

False Bay TVET College Partnerships Open Global Doors for Students

Supplied by Roshin Schmidt

False Bay TVET College, through dynamic partnerships, is empowering students with real-world opportunities that extend far beyond traditional academics. A recent achievement in this ongoing commitment is the selection of four exceptional soccer players from the Fish Hoek Campus; Ayabonga Freddy, Tauriq Davis, Owen Mzolisi, and Tristan Roberts who will train internationally after excelling at the MD Sports Soccer Tournament on 26 October 2024. This training in Spain, arranged through MD Sports Tours and Academy, offers an intensive program that supports both athletic and personal development.

Incorporating sports with academics builds more than physical skills; it develops essential soft skills that shape a student's future. Team sports, like soccer, teach collaboration, leadership, discipline, and resilience, all of which are valuable across careers and life.

By working within a team, students learn to communicate effectively, solve problems collaboratively, and build trust, qualities that also enhance their classroom learning and social interactions. Time management, accountability, and adaptability, honed through the demands of sports training, help students excel in both studies and professional pursuits.

Through its partnerships with organisations like MD Sports, False Bay TVET College fosters holistic growth. "False Bay TVET College strives to open doors for our students, helping them excel academically and in life," shared Geyrodien Alexander, College Lecturer and Campus Soccer Coach. The Spain training experience reflects this mission, allowing students to push their boundaries both on and off the field.

The College's dedication to student development through sports and partnerships offers a strong foundation for future success, locally and internationally, cultivating well-rounded individuals ready to contribute globally.



Ayabonga Freddy, Tauriq Davis, Owen Mzolisi and Tristan Roberts

Deputy Minister Manamela visits Northern Cape institutions of higher learning

Supplied by Blessing Dlamini

Gert Sibande TVET College, Skills Academy and Artisan Development Centre, in partnership with Seriti hosted a grand graduation ceremony for more than 400 local participants who completed short skills training programmes in Standerton and Kriel. The graduation was held on 7 November 2024 at the prestigious Isiqalo Waterfront Lodge, and marks the successful completion of basic training skills, facilitated by Gert Sibande TVET College Skills Centre.

The skills programmes consisted of various areas of study including, Engineering and Soft Skills with the following trades: Electrical Fitting, Robotics, Fire Fighting, Health & Safety, CCTV, Project Management, Furniture Making, Bricklaying, Plumbing, Carpentry, Welding, Garment Making, Upholstery, Agriculture, Refrigeration, Basic Information Technology Computer (End-User Computer), Early Childhood Development (ECD), Hairdressing, Accounting, Events Management, Waste Management, Finance Management and Basic Wholesale and Retail, all as Skills Basic programmes.

The programme saw a notable increase in female participants pursuing engineering careers, demonstrating a promising shift towards greater diversity in the field. Upon completion, participants received certificates and starter toolboxes, empowering them to establish their own businesses and contribute to local economic growth.

Acting Deputy Principal of Academic Services, Bafana Motha, praised the partnership, saying: "Today's event embodies the government's vision for Public-Private Partnerships. We are deeply grateful to Seriti for their invaluable support, which has made this initiative a reality. Collaborations like these will undoubtedly



College and Seriti officials with participants who completed the short skills training programme

contribute to building a better future for our country."

Lucia Mgcina, a distinguished graduate of the computer (End-User) program, delivered an inspiring address, "I am deeply honoured to represent my fellow graduates today. On their behalf, I extend our sincerest gratitude to Gert Sibande TVET College, Seriti, and all stakeholders involved. This exceptional opportunity has equipped us with invaluable skills. We acknowledge that it is now our responsibility to leverage these skills effectively, making a meaningful impact in our communities and beyond. We acknowledge that our journey has just begun. We are committed to leveraging these skills to create employment opportunities, foster personal growth, and pave the way for future successes. Thank you again to everyone who made this program possible. Your support and dedication have been invaluable."

In closing, Nechi Manombe, Acting Assistant Director: Occupational Programmes Accreditation, took the stage to offer final remarks and announcements. "To our esteemed

graduates," he began, "please collect your tool kits, generously provided to enhance your training and empower your entrepreneurial endeavours." Manombe extended heartfelt gratitude to Seriti management in Kriel and Standerton for their invaluable support. "We cherish this partnership and look forward to future collaborations." He emphasised, "The success of this programme relies on your satisfaction, dear graduates. Your happiness is our success." Manombe also expressed appreciation to Gert Sibande TVET College management and the Executive College Council. He acknowledged the dedication of the programme directors and the collective efforts of all departments involved in making the event a success.

As the graduates proudly took photos with their tool kits and certificates, the sense of accomplishment and promise for a brighter future was palpable. The ceremony's grand finale, a thunderous applause and standing ovation left a lasting impression on all who attended, cementing the day as an unforgettable celebration of achievement and potential.

Northlink College Partners with Signal Hill to Boost Training and Employment Opportunities

Supplied by Thembela Mgudlwa



Desmond Jacobs, Managing Director of Signal Hill Products and Northlink TVET College's Principal, Brian Phike, during the signing of a strategic partnership agreement

In a landmark partnership, Northlink College has joined forces with beverage producer Signal Hill Products, renowned for its popular brands, including Devil's Peak craft beer and Strongbow cider. This collaboration represents an exciting opportunity for Northlink students to gain hands-on experience in a dynamic industry, providing a significant boost to vocational training and career readiness.

This is a strategic collaboration for development of skills which was recently signed, the agreement between Northlink College and Signal Hill Products sets the stage for comprehensive training programmes designed to equip students with practical skills in high-demand fields.

The partnership outlines several initiatives, training of staff and development. Northlink lecturers and support staff will benefit from training programmes provided by Signal Hill, bringing industry-specific knowledge into the classroom and improving the quality of education.

Through structured apprenticeships and learnerships, students will engage in supervised, real-world learning experiences, enhancing their skills in areas such as manufacturing, logistics, and quality control. Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) is a vital component of the collaboration. WIL will offer students across multiple disciplines the chance to work in a real-world environment, applying classroom knowledge in practical settings at Signal Hill's production facilities.

Principal, Xolelo Brian Phike, said: "This partnership is a testament to our commitment to provide our students with a competitive edge in the job market. We are proud to offer our students this exclusive opportunity, which will not only enhance their employability but also contribute to the growth and development of South Africa's economy."

As part of the orientation into the partnership, Northlink management were given an in-depth tour of

Signal Hill's Cape Town production plant. They explored the cutting-edge manufacturing processes and innovative operational strategies driving the company's success.

The Northlink team also participated in presentations detailing the Northlink strategic view good to great 2025 and outlined the structure, values and culture, known for its energetic workforce. "The tour provided a unique insight into the company's daily operations and cutting-edge production techniques," said Xolelo Brian Phike.

This partnership is expected to benefit students across multiple fields. Engineering students will gain exposure to technical processes within a high-paced manufacturing environment, while business students can engage with aspects of marketing, logistics and management.

Northlink College's partnership with Signal Hill Products highlights the College's commitment to bridging the gap between academia and industry. By integrating classroom knowledge with practical, industry-specific training, the College is preparing its students for rewarding careers, equipped with both the skills and experience to excel.

"We are thrilled to partner with Signal Hill. This collaboration aligns with our vision to provide our students with the best learning opportunities, preparing them for successful careers in a fast-evolving job market," says Henri Mafoumba, Northlink College's Business Development Manager.

As this partnership unfolds, Northlink College and Signal Hill Products are set to redefine vocational training standards, creating pathways to success for students across the region.

Celebrating collaboration and innovation: The Partnership and Linkages Award Ceremony

Supplied by Thobile Tshabalala

Majuba TVET College's Partnerships and Linkages Unit recently hosted the awards ceremony for all Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs), government and private entities. The event was held at the Blue Ridge Crystal, Newcastle.

The Partnerships and Linkages Awards Ceremony is an event dedicated to honouring outstanding collaborations that bridge the gap between SETAs, industries and communities. This prestigious gathering recognises organisations, institutions and individuals who have demonstrated exceptional efforts in fostering strategic partnerships with the College that drive mutual growth, innovation and positive impact.

In his address, the College Principal Sanele Mlotshwa said: "Majuba TVET College is indeed proud to have partnered with you, the esteemed sectors of the economy to promote skills development and workplace-based learning. At the College, we pride ourselves with the commitment to produce skilled, work-ready graduates who can contribute meaningfully to the workforce. This vision, however, would not be possible without the incredible support and collaboration of our SETAs, National Skills Fund, industry partners and other important stakeholders present here today."

The Deputy Principal: Innovations and Development, Patrick Ntshangase gave the purpose of the day, also introducing and praising the Partnerships and Linkages Team for all their hard work. "The purpose of this ceremony is to honour the bonds we've built and to recognise the collective efforts that has brought us to this point.



Bank SETA officials receiving a trophy and certificate for funding the most students at Majuba TVET College in the 2023/2024 academic year



Deepak Mohan (Majuba TVET College Partnerships and Linkages Assistant Director) handing over a certificate to an official from Services SETA during the Awards Ceremony

This is not just a celebration of what we've accomplished, but a reminder of the greater impact we can make when we work hand in hand. I would also like to applaud my team for their continued tireless efforts to better the lives of our students," elaborated Ntshangase.

As the ceremony wrapped up, attendees were reminded that the work of building successful partnerships is far from over. As the night ended, the spirit of partnership lingered in the air, and attendees departed with renewed dedication to fostering connections that will shape a better future for all.

Majuba TVET College Academics to the World, Digitalisation has led to extensive changes

Supplied by Thobile Tshabalala



Majuba TVET College officials to represent the College in Rome, Italy photographed before they left

For Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions to remain relevant and attractive, they need to identify and introduce digital skills and competencies for the changing world of work and to better utilise the opportunities provided by digitalisation, particularly distance learning.

Majuba TVET College recently collaborated with the University of Johannesburg (UJ), Central Johannesburg TVET College, Vhembe TVET College, Università Degli Studi di Roma La Sapienza (Italy), University of Peloponnese (Greece) and Pixel - Associazione Culturale (Italy) to exploit digital solutions for teaching through

Promotion of Technology-Enhanced Learning and Digital Education in South African University and TVET Colleges (Pro-Telde) Project.

The Pro-Telde Project was funded by the Erasmus Programme, Capacity Building in the field of higher education via the European Commission. The project aims to provide South African higher education institutions and TVET lecturers with the necessary skills to exploit digital solutions for teaching.

Seven lecturers of Majuba TVET College recently left for Italy to attend training sessions on digitisation in the educational environment. They will be trained

on identifying and selecting existing open digital sources and to create their own teaching resources in the field of business and economics. This will subsequently transcend into the engineering environment as well.

Sicelo Sibiya, Lecturer for NC (V) Business Practice, is one of the lecturers who left for Italy. "I am truly humbled and honoured that the College has chosen me to participate in the Pro-Telde Project and selected me for the international trip to Rome, Italy. I am deeply grateful for this exceptional opportunity and experience; I am eager to embrace it with enthusiasm and dedication. I look forward to making the most of this journey, learning as much as I can and seizing every moment to grow and develop," said Mr Sibiya.

Another lecturer Prishani Baliram, Senior Lecturer for NC (V) Personal Assistance said, "Attending the Pro-Telde training in Italy fills me with excitement and anticipation as I look forward to experiencing a new learning environment. Gaining advanced digital skills through the Pro-Telde training will be an invaluable asset, enabling us to navigate and leverage new technologies with confidence. Upon our return, we are committed to imparting this knowledge to our colleagues, fostering a digitally skilled environment that supports innovation and efficiency."

The College is pleased with this collaboration and sends travel mercies to all the officials who will be representing Majuba TVET College in Italy.

Sasol and Gert Sibande TVET College celebrate a milestone

Supplied by Blessing Dlamini



Gert Sibande TVET College, Skills Academy and Artisan Development Centre graduates with Seriti and the College's officials

Gert Sibande TVET College in partnership with Sasol held a remarkable graduation ceremony on 17 October 2024 honouring 94 graduates with startup kits tailored to their fields of study. This initiative is part of Sasol's Bridge to Work (BtW) campaign, an employability programme focused on empowering unemployed youth and women with critical skills to secure employment or start their own businesses.

The goal of the programme is to aid fence line community members and affected Sasol employees to access meaningful work opportunities that can be converted into small businesses through structured development opportunities.

The graduates received their Bridge to Work Certificates, marking the successful completion of their academic journey. The momentous occasion was shared with family, friends and faculty at the Sasol Club. This significant milestone represents the dedication and perseverance of the graduates, as well as the fruitful collaboration between Sasol and Gert Sibande TVET College.

Nonkosi Dyantyi, Communications Manager at Sasol Mining, warmly welcomed attendees. "Today, we proudly recognise the graduates who have been equipped with the skills to become employable and entrepreneurial. We acknowledge the love, support, and guidance of your family and friends, which has been instrumental in your success," she said.

Cllr Jabu Zwane, MMC for Revenue Enhancement & Ward 14 in the Govan Mbeki Municipality, took the stage, warmly welcoming everyone. Zwane's speech emphasised the significance of the graduates, acknowledging them as the most important individuals in the room. As the representative of Govan Mbeki Municipality, his words carried weight, reflecting the municipality's vision of being 'A Model City of Excellence' and its mission to provide sustainable quality services, enable diversified local economic development and ensure financial sustainability.

Rightwell Laxa, Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs at Sasol, delivered the keynote address, emphasising the significance of the occasion. He expressed gratitude to

everyone present, acknowledging that the success of the programme wouldn't be possible without their collective efforts.

He reiterated that the Bridge to Work Programme is designed to change lives, transform communities and make a meaningful impact, aligning with Sasol's mission. Laxa noted that parents should encourage their children to dream big, but it's crucial to provide opportunities for those dreams to flourish.

"The Bridge to Work Programme aims to create these opportunities, empowering graduates to turn their aspirations into reality. Gert Sibande TVET College, a key partner in this initiative, shares a similar vision, aiming to have all graduates placed in permanent employment, learnerships, apprenticeships, internships or entrepreneurship programmes. The College's Skills Academy and Artisan Development Centre in Standerton focuses on developing South Africa's labour force. Sasol has also extended its commitment to Gert Sibande TVET College through the 'Adopt-a-TVET College' programme, further solidifying the partnership," he said.

Gert Sibande District Mayor, Councillor Walter Mngomezulu delivered an inspiring message of support to the graduates of Gert Sibande TVET College, highlighting the significance of Sasol's investment in their future. He congratulated the graduates on successfully completing their course, acknowledging their determination and resilience. "You have empowered yourselves and taken education as an opportunity, regardless of your background. It's about taking up a course and standing up to ensure your skills and perseverance lead to achieving your goals," he said.

He encouraged the graduates to seize opportunities like the skills development programme, underscoring that hard work and dedication are essential to achieving success. "There's nothing you can't do, no dream you can't achieve," he said. On behalf of Gert Sibande Municipality and Mpumalanga, Councillor Mngomezulu wished the graduates all the best for their future endeavours. Amongst other graduates receiving special awards for their outstanding performance were Kagiso Manchu and Siphoh Mahlangu.

Kagiso Manchu completed the Sasol Bridge to Work programme in partnership with Deviare, focusing

on digital skills in Data Science, Java Full Stack Development, Drone Piloting, and Artificial Intelligence from June 2023 to September 2024. Drawn to the programme due to his passion for coding and lack of financial resources for university, he gained valuable skills, particularly in teamwork. He praises the programme for providing in-demand skills, internship experience and recommends it to others.

Siphoh Mahlangu completed the 15-month 4IR Bridge to Work programme. Previously unemployed

and forced to drop out of university due to financial issues, Siphoh found the programme timely. He acquired skills in being open-minded, work ethics, business skills, and teamwork. Now working as an IT Administrator at Deviare, Siphoh attributes his success to the programme. He advises others, "You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great."

Both graduates exemplify the programme's impact in empowering individuals with in-demand digital skills, leading to employment opportunities.



Gert Sibande TVET College, Acting Deputy principal, Academic Services, Mr Bafana Motha giving a message of support during the ceremony

College Hosts Namibian Delegation

Supplied by Sabelo Tshabalala

South West Gauteng TVET College together with the Wholesale and Retail Sector Education and Training Authority (W&RSETA), hosted a delegation from the Namibia Training Authority as part of the Vocational Educational and Training Exchange Programme and Benchmarking on 28 October 2024. This event was an opportunity for both countries to share knowledge,

skills and best practices in the field of Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

In a warm and dynamic atmosphere representatives from the South West Gauteng TVET College, Namibia Training Authority, Namibia University and W&RSETA shared their knowledge and challenges through presentations. Their discussion

espoused insightful knowledge on training and development.

Together, this diverse group stood poised to forge stronger ties and pave the way for innovative training initiatives, demonstrating the power of collaboration in shaping the future. The Vocational Education and Training Exchange Programme and Benchmarking is a joint initiative

between South West Gauteng TVET College and the Namibian Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation.

The programme aims to foster collaboration and promote the exchange of ideas between the two countries in the field of vocational education and training. It also serves as a platform for benchmarking and learning from each other's successes and challenges.

During the recent exchange, the areas of interest for the Namibian delegation included the SWGC Dobsonville Campus, which houses the W&RSETA SMME Centre, a hub dedicated to supporting small, medium and micro enterprises. Additionally, the Land is Wealth Farm offers a unique opportunity for agricultural development and sustainable practices, enriching the community's economic growth prospects and fostering innovation in farming.

One of the major goals of the Vocational Education and Training Exchange Programme is to improve the quality of vocational education and training in both countries.

Through this programme, principals, lecturers, and other staff members can share their expertise and learn from each other.



CEO of Namibia Training Authority, Eric Nenghwanya, and South West Gauteng College Principal, Joey Monyamane

This will not only benefit the institutions but also has a positive impact on the students. The exchange of knowledge and skills encourages innovation and ensures that students are equipped with the most current and relevant skills, making them more employable.

Moreover, the programme also promotes cultural exchange and understanding between the two countries. By hosting a delegation from Namibia, South West Gauteng TVET College is not only sharing its expertise but also showcasing its diversity and South African culture. This helps build strong relationships

and creates a sense of camaraderie between the two nations.

The success of this programme can be seen in the positive feedback received from the Namibian delegation. They were impressed by the facilities, curriculum, and teaching and learning approaches modelled by South West Gauteng TVET College.

The exchange programme has also resulted in several opportunities for collaboration between the two countries, including the possibility of joint research projects and student exchange programmes.

College collaborates with British Council to drive entrepreneurship in Agriculture

Supplied by Kilian Minette

Boland College's Worcester Campus hosted a dynamic training event as part of a growing international partnership with the British Council on 24 October 2024. This collaboration seeks to embed entrepreneurial skills in the College's agricultural programmes, aiming to broaden career prospects for students and address pressing

challenges in the agricultural industry.

Facilitated by Mr Jonathan Vincent from the British Council and coordinated by Mr Vincent Uys of Boland College, the session drew together staff and students with a shared goal, to foster a culture of entrepreneurship within the TVET sector in South Africa.

The training included online instruction from UK-based lecturer Donna Pender-Jones, with interactive sessions tailored to the needs of Boland College. Staff and students alike benefited from insights on agricultural entrepreneurship, from commercial nursery management to sustainable meat processing.



Ms Diona van Wyk (Deputy Principal: Finance), Ben Fairhurst (Head of International and Quality, Warwickshire College and University Centre), Mr Charles Goodwin (Boland College Principal), Mr Mark Bonham (Assistant Principal, Warwickshire College and University Centre), Ms Wendy Adams (Deputy Principal: Registration Services)

The UK-South Africa partnership is grounded in several key objectives including Entrepreneurship in Agriculture, Lecturer Development

and Economic Impact. The integration of entrepreneurial skills into agriculture education can transform the sector.

Students with business acumen are well-positioned to address global challenges such as food security and sustainable practices, while also adapting to evolving market trends. Beyond technical expertise, entrepreneurship education imparts crucial skills in budgeting, marketing, strategic planning and empowering graduates to run successful agricultural ventures.

The British Council-Boland College partnership holds exciting potential for future initiatives that could extend beyond agriculture. This programme underscores the critical role that TVET institutions play in preparing the workforce for modern economic demands. Through this collaboration, Boland College is committed to equip its students with the skills to excel as leaders in South Africa's agricultural landscape.

China Prepares South African TVET College Graduates for Entrepreneurship

Supplied by Martha Shingange

About 86 South African TVET college students are making great progress in China where they are being trained in a 12-month cross-border e-commerce program with leading colleges in the country.

This initiative is a partnership between the Wholesale and Retail Sector Education and Training Authority (W&RSETA), the Chinese Culture and International Education Exchange Centre. The students were selected from 11 TVET colleges.

The graduates commenced their 12-month program in May 2024 which comprises three months training at three top colleges in China and nine months at leading e-commerce companies learning about online retailing and cross-border business.



Department of Education's Deputy Director Jiang Jun delivering a message of support

The graduates have also participated in live streaming sales to promote and sell products. Importantly, 20 students were fully integrated into the college activities, including the dragon boat racing competition, where they won first place.

The Hangzhou Polytechnic College Principal Wen Zhengbao, expressed his appreciation for the SETA's decision to bring the students over 30 000 kilometres from their home to study in China. Zhengbao added that cross-border e-commerce is reshaping the world and pioneering in the digital economy. His hope was for the program to assist South African online businesses move forward.

Industry and Zhejiang Provincial Department of Education representatives offered their commitment to supporting the graduates. "South Africa in its advancements economically and other areas has been an example to the

world. You are the hope and future of South Africa. This initiative will be the bridge connecting China and South Africa and even the world," remarked the Department of Education's Deputy Director, Jiang Jun.

The four institutions are participating in this program as part of the cooperation agreement between China and South Africa further strengthening the friendly relations between the two countries. The program focuses on training, learning, practice and application of cutting-edge technologies to impact future employment of young people and build South Africa's economy. "China is a \$3 trillion manufacturing industry, the biggest in the world. Our college will help you to change your dreams to reality," said Zhou Qingyuan, the college's Vice President.

At Wuhan Vocational College of Software and Engineering, the Party

Secretary, Prof. Ma Feng, indicated that the program was part of supporting South Africa's Economic Recovery and Reconstruction Program. As part of the program, the graduates will be allocated e-commerce projects and will be exposed to social media marketing, Artificial Intelligence technology, cross-border communication as well as enterprise immersion at companies such as Alibaba, one of the world's leading e-commerce marketplaces.

President of Wuhan Vocational College of Software and Engineering, Jiang Xingpeng, reaffirmed that the program was aligned to the Chinese President's call for collaboration on economic exchanges between Africa and China. He further indicated that the program was designed based on the objectives of youth development which includes imparting knowledge, skills, and training them to understand trends in cross-border e-commerce.

Lovedale TVET College CoVE Hub connects students with industry through Work-Integrated Learning Week In Climate Smart Agriculture

Supplied by Siyabonga Makhatini

Lovedale TVET College's Centre of Vocational Excellence (CoVE) Hub in Climate Smart Agriculture recently hosted a week-long Work Integrated Learning (WIL) programme for Farming Management and Mechanisation N6 students. The regional CoVE hub, supported by the European Union's Erasmus+ programme, is dedicated to bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world agricultural practices.

During the week, 57 students had the opportunity to visit several innovative agricultural sites, where they gained hands-on experience in Climate Smart Agriculture. The visits provided valuable insights into sustainable farming practices, farm management, and the integration

of environmental and economic sustainability in agriculture.

Key Visits and Lessons:

Belvedere Safari and Hunting (Ostrich Farm): Students learned about ostrich care, feeding, breeding and the economic potential of ostrich products, gaining insight into an alternative and profitable agricultural niche.

Aquaponics at Martins Farm (Rhodes University): Students explored a sustainable, integrated fish-plant farming system, observing how aquaponics offers a closed-loop, resource-efficient model for agriculture. Amalinda Nursery: At this stop, students gained hands-on experience in plant

propagation, pest management, and sustainable practices in nursery operations, contributing to a deeper understanding of plant-based agriculture.

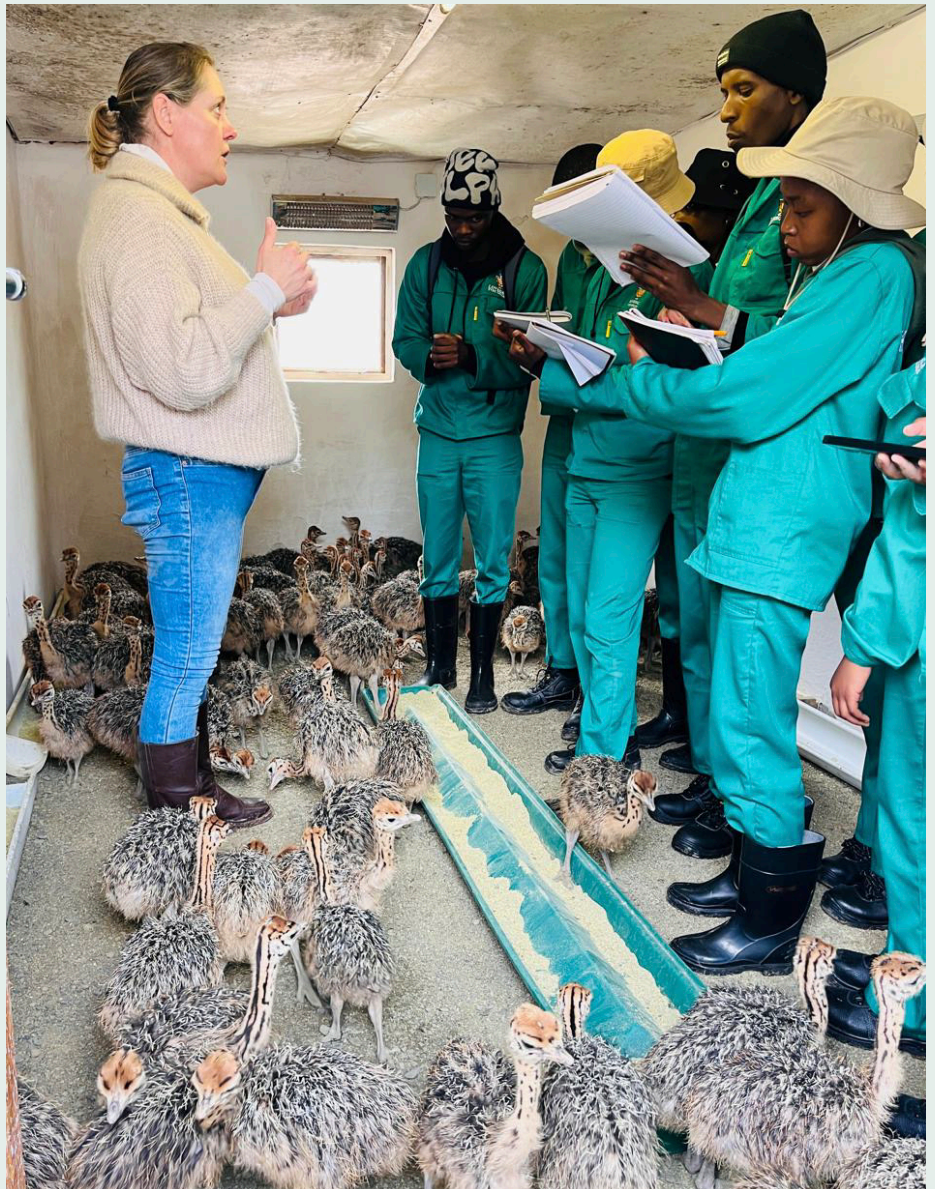
University of Fort Hare Dairy Trust: Students learned about dairy farm management, milking technology, and sustainable practices in the dairy industry, highlighting innovations that improve both production and sustainability.

Fort Cox Agriculture and Forestry Training Institute: This visit showcased the integration of crop and livestock production, giving students a first-hand look at efficient and sustainable farming practices that combine both agricultural sectors. Each visit was designed to provide students

with practical exposure, including facility tours, hands-on activities, and question and answer sessions with industry experts. These experiences not only enhanced their understanding of sustainable agricultural practices, but also opened their eyes to the wide range of career opportunities in the agriculture sector.

The WIL Week programme underscores Lovedale TVET College's commitment to preparing students for the future of farming, where climate-smart, sustainable approaches are essential. By connecting academic learning with real-world industry experience, the CoVE Hub is helping equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in a rapidly changing agricultural landscape.

Lovedale TVET College is part of an ecosystem, comprising three TVET colleges in South Africa that have come together to collaboratively establish CoVE in climate smart agriculture. These three TVET colleges are supported by Stellenbosch University (SU) to ensure that they successfully deliver on the required objectives of this European Union funded initiative.



Lovedale TVET College's students taken through a practical training



Lovedale TVET College's students during the Work Integrated Learning expedition

Major training boost for budding female artisans

Supplied by Godfrey Mabasa

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and Letaba TVET College recently entered into a partnership that will see College students hosted for work integrated learning at various departmental construction projects in the province. Currently the College's civil engineering student trainees will be working on raising the Tzaneen Dam walls amongst other projects.

The programme targets mostly female students from the four campuses of Letaba TVET College and seeks to create awareness of career opportunities within the

DWS that require technical skills as well as development programmes including bursaries and internships.

Letaba TVET College Acting principal, Benjamin Moshoma, said women in construction can serve as role models for future generations of aspiring young women making important life choices about which career paths to follow. "Things have changed significantly over the past decade. Contractors are now focussing on women's contributions, equality, and diversity. Women continue to make their mark in the construction industry, breaking barriers and proving that they are just as capable as their

male counterparts," he said.

The College Council chairperson, Sibongile Sehlake encouraged female students to work hard and take leadership positions. "Women in construction can be found in wide variety of roles, including engineers, architects, builders, project managers and more.

These women have diverse range of skills, perspectives, and experiences that they bring to the construction industry, helping to improve the industry and make it more inclusive," concluded Sehlake.



Civil engineering students with representatives from Letaba TVET College, Mopani District Municipality and the Department of Water and Sanitation

Champions in Information Technology: The Journey to Victory for female budding artisans

Supplied by Liesl Scheepers

Champions are not made in gyms they are forged from a deep inner drive, a desire, a dream and a vision. True champions possess not only the skill, but also the will to push beyond their limits.

For Buhle Vika and Sikelelwa Duba, who are Port Elizabeth TVET students in the field of Information Technology and Computer Science, this inner strength led them to victory at the Eastern Cape (EC), Information Technology and Computer Science (IT&CS) Competition, where they, as a team, claimed first place in the System Analysis & Design category.

Buhle reflected on the experience, admitting that competing in the competition was intimidating due to her nerves, particularly when it came to public speaking and presentations. Despite the fear, her commitment to helping her College maintain its prestigious position drove her to persevere. She found solace and motivation in the presence of her teammate, which made the journey not only bearable, but enjoyable. The victory itself brought immense joy to both Buhle and her supporters, and the pride of her lecturers was an unforgettable highlight.

Sikelelwa shared her perspective, expressing how fulfilling the competition was. From the practical, hands-on tasks to the intense moments during the presentations, she appreciated every aspect of the experience. Grateful for the opportunity and the unwavering support from their lecturers. She encouraged other students to keep pushing forward, even when faced with challenges. Sikelelwa also encouraged them to trust in their abilities and lean on their faith, particularly during tough times.

To fellow students pursuing IT or any other field, Buhle and Sikelelwa's journey stands as a testament to perseverance, teamwork, and self-belief. Their success is a reminder that with hard work and determination to excel, anything is possible.

Congratulations once again to these remarkable champions, your hard work and dedication have truly paid off. Keep striving for excellence and remember you have got this.



Buhle Vika, Eastern Cape's Information Technology and Computer Science Competition champion



Sikelelwa Duba, Eastern Cape's Information Technology and Computer Science Competition champion

New Renewable Energy Developments at Boland College

Supplied by Danel Conradie

Boland College's Worcester Campus is proud to announce recent advancements in renewable energy, as part of ongoing commitment to sustainability and innovation. The College recently hosted a significant training session on 'GLOBALG.A.P. and Food Safety in the Fruit and Vegetable Supply Chain,' conducted by Q-Point partners, Feline Heussen and Mark Bos.

This training is an integral component of the Nuffic-funded project titled 'Sustainable Horticultural Value Chains in the Boland Region with Integration of Renewable Energy Concepts' in collaboration with Koue Bokkeveld Opleidingsentrum.

During the training, Vincent Uys provided a comprehensive overview of the newly installed solar panel system at Worcester Campus. Completed in

June 2024, this solar installation is fully operational, marking a significant milestone in commitment to renewable energy. The project was made possible through a collaborative effort between Boland College, Soly, and Q-Point.

Mr Vincent Uys mentioned that integrating renewable energy into farming practices is not just about embracing technology, it's about ensuring the longevity and health of our environment for future generations. "By harnessing sustainable energy solutions, we empower farmers to reduce their carbon footprint and operate more efficiently, all while fostering a greener and more resilient agricultural sector," said Mr Vincent.

In addition, the College is excited to announce an upcoming initiative, the 'RenewHortiSA' project. This

pioneering endeavor aims to further integrate renewable energy solutions into South Africa's horticulture sector, promoting sustainability, innovation, and environmental stewardship. By incorporating state-of-the-art renewable energy technologies, including advanced water solutions powered by renewable energy, Boland College strives to enhance horticultural practices and supports a greener future.

The College extends its heartfelt thanks to Mr Vincent Uys (Senior Educational Specialist in Agriculture: Farming Management & Entrepreneurship), Mr Derrick Matthee (Acting Campus Manager: Worcester Campus), and all our external stakeholders. Their dedication, passion for farming, and commitment to sustainable practices are instrumental in shaping a sustainable future for agriculture.



Mr Vincent Uys (Senior Educational Specialist in Agriculture: Farming Management & Entrepreneurship) and Mr Derrick Matthee (Acting Campus Manager: Worcester Campus) at the newly installed solar panels on campus

Mopani TVET College hosts a disability awareness campaign

Supplied by Leshofe Mokhabuki and Lerato Mohlala



Mopani TVET College students and management during the Disability Awareness campaign

As part of the College's vision to be an institution of excellence and choice, Mopani TVET College hosted a Disability Awareness Campaign to raise awareness, show support, and celebrate the rights and abilities of individuals living with disabilities. The campaign, held on 13 October 2024, took place at the College's Namakgale and Sir Val Duncan campuses respectively, marking an important step toward promoting inclusivity and community spirit on all campuses.

The campaign brought together staff, students and stakeholders to ensure that the College remains a supportive space for all students, aiming to encourage dialogue about accessibility and equal opportunities to meet all the students' needs.

Speaking at the event, the College Principal, Dr Levy Baloyi emphasised

that, it is important for students to declare their disabilities to enable the institution to provide the necessary support.

"Today is a great day and I want to thank everyone who has contributed to make this day a reality. Students who are living with disabilities are encouraged to declare their disabilities to the campus. This declaration can be done during application and registration period, and as a college, we will take the necessary steps to ensure that they receive the required support throughout their time with us," said Dr Baloyi.

As part of the campaign, the College also issued out 165 spectacles to support students who have eyesight challenges. Ms Buhle Dlamini, a student at the College living with disability expressed words of gratitude to the entire college for

showing her support throughout her academic journey.

"When I joined the College, I found it difficult to adapt and I was worried that my disability might affect my education. The support I received from the college was impeccable; they bought me a robotic wheelchair which has made life easy to navigate with my condition. I am also blessed with the community that embraces me as I am. This has made a huge difference in my academic endeavours," said Ms Buhle Dlamini.

The campaign underscored the importance of creating a learning environment that values diversity, promotes equality and provides resources to empower all students. Mopani TVET College remains committed to being an inclusive college where every student can thrive, regardless of their abilities.

Inspiring a Generation: Mr Godfrey Zihlwele's Journey as a Blind Facilitator at a rural TVET College

Supplied by Asive Noah

When Godfrey Zihlwele walks into a classroom at the College, accompanied by his guide dog, Tasha, he instantly commands attention, not because of his visual impairment, but due to his unwavering passion for human development and education.

Born and raised in the Eastern Cape, Godfrey matriculated in 2000 from Efata School for the Blind. He pursued further education at various institutions, earning a degree in Politics and International Relations from the University of the Witwatersrand and a postgraduate qualification in Management from Stellenbosch Business School. "I became a facilitator during my university days, assisting Wits University's Disability Unit in training students with computer skills sparked my passion for empowering others," he says.

Since joining Lovedale TVET College in 2016, Godfrey has been a vital employee, facilitating programmes such as New Venture Creation and End-User Computing. His dedication goes beyond teaching, he views his work as a contribution to addressing unemployment, poverty, and skills shortages in the Eastern Cape. "What motivates me every day is knowing that Lovedale, though small, is making a difference in the lives of our youth. It's rewarding to see young people realise their potential," he said.

While his visual impairment might seem like a hurdle to some, Godfrey sees it differently. "It's not something I focus on daily. I simply encourage my students to look beyond my blindness and focus on our shared goal of learnings," he said. His approach has helped create inclusive classrooms where everyone thrives.



Lovedale TVET College's students during the Work Integrated Learning expedition

Tasha, his guide dog, plays an essential role in his daily life. Godfrey explains: "Tash is an extension of myself. She enables me to move independently and confidently. Yet, challenges persist, some taxi drivers refuse to accommodate guide dogs, highlighting the need for stronger legislation to ensure equal access for

people with disabilities."

Godfrey's story is a powerful reminder of the incredible strength and the transformative role of education. It highlights the belief that everyone, no matter their circumstances, has the potential to make a meaningful impact in society.

Westcol Strives for Equity Through Disability-Inclusive Programmes

Supplied by Cynthia Manong

Westcol TVET College remains steadfast in its mission to create a more equitable society, with disability-inclusive programmes playing a vital role in promoting equity, diversity and inclusion. These initiatives not only benefit individuals with disabilities, but also enhance the overall learning experience, fostering creativity, innovation and productivity within the learning environment.

Key stakeholders such as Stroke Physio Care Rehab, Gauteng Higher Health, University of South Africa (UNISA), Westside FM, and other collaborators hosted a disability-inclusive programme at Silverstar Casino in Krugersdorp on 29 October 2024.

As part of its commitment to inclusivity, the College has identified nine students with disabilities and implemented monthly support

sessions through the Student Support Services (SSS). These sessions are designed to address the unique needs of each student, offering tailored guidance and resources to enhance their academic and emotional well-being.

To further support these students, Westcol TVET College organises career expos aimed at connecting students with disabilities to prospective employers and organisations dedicated to fostering diverse workforces. The identified students have actively participated in these initiatives during the second and third terms of the year.

In a significant step forward, the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) has allocated funds for the procurement of assistive devices for students with special needs. Among the beneficiaries is Ammah Mende, a 20-year-old Level 2

Office Administration student from Randfontein Campus.

Ms Mende recently received a Swiss Mobility Luxury Electric Wheelchair, which features advanced mobility capabilities, sound alerts, and a talking device. "The device will aid me in my day-to-day life, ensuring better mobility and accessibility. It's compact for travel, allowing me to commute safely," shared Ms Mende, expressing her gratitude for the support she has received from Westcol.

These collective efforts have already yielded positive results, demonstrating Westcol TVET College's unwavering commitment to cultivating an inclusive and supportive environment. By empowering students with disabilities in their academic and career journeys, Westcol continues to lead by example in creating equitable opportunities for all.



Attendees of the Disability Summit, hosted by Westcol TVET College

Empowering tomorrow's leaders through training

Supplied by Minette Kilian



Charles Goodwin (Principal) with the new Executive Student Representative Council Members

Boland College recently hosted its Student Representative Council (SRC) Training Camp at the College's Stellenbosch Campus, where newly elected student leaders from all campuses gathered to prepare their roles for the 2025 academic year. This diverse group of leaders represents the vibrant student body at Boland College, with students from all walks of life, including LGBTQIA+ and students living with disability (Deaf). The presence of a sign language interpreter throughout the camp ensured that every student leader was fully included, a reflection of the College's commitment to inclusivity.

The three-day training camp was packed with enriching sessions designed to equip student leaders with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively serve their campuses. Highlights included a keynote presentation from Dumisani Lutweyi from the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) Regional Office, who provided insights into Student Leadership and Governance,

the Community Education Training Act, and the National Guidelines for Student Leadership.

Work-placement and leadership essentials were also at the forefront of the weekend. Bathandwa Mooi, Assistant Director of Partnerships and Linkages at the College, emphasised the importance of work-placement and keeping personal information up to date to ensure effective service delivery.

Additionally Nomalizo Mpati, Deputy Principal of Academic Services, emphasised the significance of academic responsibility, urging student leaders to take charge of their educational journey.

A major focus of the camp was developing leadership skills and student leaders were engaged in interactive discussions on leadership essentials, challenging them to think critically about their roles and the qualities that make an effective leader. This included Interactive role-playing sessions which added

a practical element to the training. Students participated in a Student Parliament simulation, where Vice-Chairpersons were tested on how to maintain composure under pressure. Students were guided on how to handle difficult situations, to ensure that they are well-prepared for the real-world challenges at their campuses.

Inclusivity was a key theme throughout the camp. In one of the most inspiring moments, a deaf student from the Worcester campus, shared her appreciation for the efforts made to include deaf students in every activity. From games to discussions, all students were actively encouraged to learn basic sign language, ensuring that no one felt left out.

The training camp wrapped up with the signing of the SRC Code of Conduct, a symbolic moment where student leaders affirmed their commitment to upholding their responsibilities.

The Central Johannesburg Music Students Excelling On and Off the Stage

Supplied by Palesa Gule

The Central Johannesburg College (CJC) Music Department at Smit Street Campus continues to shine as its N4–N6 Music students actively participate in a series of enriching workshops and collaborations aimed at honing their musical talent and preparing them for the industry.

The Campus recently hosted a transformative workshop led by the celebrated multi-instrumentalist, composer, and music director, Mpumi Dhlamini, accompanied by his talented band. Known for his award-winning journey starting at the National School of the Arts and collaborations with icons like Tshepo Tshola and Lira, Mr Dhlamini offered students a holistic experience that focused on improvisation, composition, and bridging the skill levels between beginners and advanced players.

Mpumi Dhlamini emphasised the potential of TVET colleges to dispel negative perceptions while fostering creativity. His message was clear, the arts sector empowers musicians to become creators and entrepreneurs, not just job seekers. He encouraged students to balance their artistic expression with professional presentation, advising them on branding, marketing, and building their value as performers.

CJC students also attended the Jazz Wise Youth Music Business Workshop at the Joburg Theatre, hosted by the Standard Bank Joy of Jazz. The event provided an immersive learning experience. Industry leaders shared invaluable insights into music production, talent management, marketing, and event planning, equipping students with tools to navigate the complexities of the entertainment business.

In collaboration with the Market Theatre Foundation and renowned Actor and Director Dr Jerry Mofokeng wa Makhetha, CJC students contributed to the 200th anniversary of the Basotho people.



Central Johannesburg TVET band

Their involvement included musical performances and storytelling, culminating in a stage reading of Mantsopa. Special recognition goes to students Lihle Zungu (Alto), Nontobeko Masiye (Tenor), and Zubenathi Stali (Soprano) for their captivating performances that left the audience mesmerised.

The Music Department remains committed to creating platforms for students to grow as artists and professionals. The College extends its best wishes to all its music students as they continue to excel, network, and make strides toward successful careers in the music industry.

College shines at the CoSACSA Gauteng Annual Sports Awards

Supplied by Tshepo Mokoena

South West Gauteng College (SWGC) achieved a commendable second place at the College Sports, Arts and Culture South Africa (CoSACSA) Gauteng Annual Sports Awards, held on 26 October 2024, at the Ekurhuleni West College (EWC) Kathorus Campus Hall.

This achievement is as a result of the College's outstanding performance

across various sporting disciplines, securing the second position just behind the champions EWC.

These rankings reflect the dedication and competitive spirit exhibited throughout the CoSACSA Gauteng TVET Cup and League Medals competitions. The event served as a significant celebration of athletic excellence, teamwork, and sportsmanship, driven

by the unwavering support of players and spectators.

CoSACSA Gauteng is to be commended for organising this remarkable event and contributing to its overall success. The SWGC extends its gratitude to all players, coaches, officials, and supporters whose commitment and enthusiasm were integral to this memorable occasion.



SWGS's Sports, Arts and Culture coaches and coordinator during the CoSACSA Gauteng Annual Sports Awards

TVET College hosts inaugural Men's Conference

Supplied by Daniel Masenya

Waterberg TVET College recently hosted its inaugural Men's Conference in Tzaneen. The event aimed to foster dialogue, promote mutual understanding, and address critical issues such as gender-based violence (GBV) and responsible fatherhood. The conference was attended by men from various walks of life, eager to engage in meaningful discussions and take actionable steps toward a more equitable society.

The conference featured two prominent speakers, Dr Netshipapame and Mr Letsoalo, both of whom brought their unique perspectives and experiences to the table. Dr Netshipapame opened the conference with a powerful call to action, urging men to confront GBV and hold one another accountable for harmful actions, particularly those directed toward women. He emphasised the importance of integrity, contentment, and the courage to stand up for what is right, challenging the audience to be a brother's keeper.

In a moving personal account, Mr Malatjie shared his journey with a health condition, using his story to raise awareness and dispel common myths. His openness set the tone for the event, encouraging others to speak candidly and seek support when needed.

Mr Letsoalo, a lively evangelist, shared insights on responsible fatherhood. He stressed the importance of consistency, principled behaviour, and being a role model to one's children. He shared his personal approach to parenting, setting clear expectations for his sons and fostering open communication about their whereabouts and actions. He also provided valuable advice on relationships, emphasising that they are a preparatory stage for the future. He urged men to carefully consider factors such as compatibility, shared values, and mutual respect before committing to a life partner. Drawing from biblical perspectives, Mr Letsoalo highlighted the roles of love and respect in a healthy partnership.

The conference was structured to encourage active participation and deliberation among attendees. Men divided into commissions to discuss creating a supportive forum for male staff at the college. This led to the formulation of a constitution, identification of resources, and planning for the forum's success and sustainability. The discussions culminated in the establishment of a leadership structure with defined roles, ensuring representation from all college sites.

The event was a resounding success, with participants expressing gratitude for the opportunity to engage in open and honest conversations. The takeaways from the conference were clear: men are committed to introspection, striving for positive change, and fostering a safer environment for women and fellow men alike. Mr Mashitsho from Thabazimbi Campus aptly summarised the sentiment, stating that the initiative was long overdue and would help men overcome cultural stereotypes and practices that have historically marginalised women.



College male staff members attending the inaugural Men's Conference

TOP nomination and award for the MICT SETA

Supplied by Chaque Risi

The Media Information and Communication Technologies (MICT) SETA's Chief Information Officer (CIO), Moloti Nkune, recognised as one of the leaders who are building the future of Information Technology in South Africa. He was nominated for the CIO of the Year Award during the 2024 CIO Awards ceremony recently held at Indanda Club's Polo Room in Johannesburg.

The annual CIO Awards recognise CIOs of listed companies, large corporations, state-owned entities and government institutions and award them for outstanding performance and leadership.

The CIO of the Year Award recognises a CIO who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and innovation, contributing to the success of their organisation over a number of years. The recipient of this award should be a business partner with a proven track record of implementing effective IT strategies and delivering measurable results. The CIO of the Year is leading by example and has outperformed all others based on skills, attitude and results.

This recognition highlights the CIO's leadership and innovative contributions to MICT SETA and the public sector tech industry. His dedication to driving digital transformation has not only set new benchmarks for excellence, but also paved the way for the continued growth and success of the organisation and the public sector education and training field.

The MICTSETA also scooped the 'Innovative Institution Award' at the Empire Partner Foundation (EPF) Tech Awards.

These awards highlight and celebrate the achievements in this field. EPF organises the Annual South African Technology Awards. This prestigious event aims to showcase the talent and technology of tech-based businesses across all nine provinces of South Africa. The awards will provide an opportunity for these businesses to gain recognition and exposure for their innovative contributions to the ICT sector.



MICTSETA

Media, Information And
Communication Technologies
Sector Education And Training Authority

SHAPING SKILLS, PIONEERING INDUSTRIES, EMPOWERING FUTURES

MICT SETA forges ahead with implementation of the Integrated Learner Management System (ILMS)

Supplied by Chaque Risi

The shared services model offers a pathway to enhance governance and compliance in the Post-School Education and Training (PSET) sector by promoting efficiency, consistency and accountability. While there are challenges, a well-implemented shared services framework can improve operational effectiveness, allowing PSET institutions to focus more on their educational mission and less on administrative burdens. Shared services model could work within the PSET sector to support the following objectives:

Centralised administration for efficiency and consistency: Repetitive functions with the sector IT, HR et cetera can be centralised with a benefit of lowering operational cost and improving consistency across the sector; streamlining monitoring and reporting processes can make it easier to track key compliance; and reducing discrepancies through standardised policies and procedures.

Improved compliance through Integrated systems: Integrating systems can ensure better data accuracy and security which are crucial for compliance with laws and educational standards; and assist with automating checks for regulatory compliance which will help eliminate extensive manual audits.

Enhanced governance through streamlined oversight: Assist with defining clear roles and responsibilities improving accountability within governance structures; Consistent training can be provided on governance and compliance ensuring staff keep up to date with knowledge

of regulatory requirements and sector specific policies and addressing risks more effectively.

Cost savings reinvested in compliance and quality improvement: Savings achieved through shared services can be re-invested in critical areas for governance and compliance, such as quality assurance as well as enhancing the quality of education and training along with mandates.

AGSA recommendations regarding the Shared Services

- Develop or update a business case that includes inputs from all SETAs within the sector.
- There should be collaboration with other government institutions for quality assurance processes to ensure efficient and effective use of resources and avoid wastage.
- Upskilling the IT security team within the PSET system to improve the management of cloud security environment.
- Involvement of all SETAs in testing the system to ensure that the system meets the requirements and functions of the sector as a whole.
- DHET to issue a directive on the implementation of the LMS by all the SETAs.

Key Processes and Achievements of the ILMS to date

The Architecture of the ILMS was improved to make provision for a Transactional Database to enable those parties with systems outside of the ILMS to verify learner information: All parties should be able to verify their learner information to detect duplication from 1 April 2025. A Transitional Database will be provided to accommodate parties with contracts expiring during the medium-term (within the period of implementation) to temporarily store their data before it is migrated on the live system.

A Transition Plan was revised to onboard each SETA per module/ functionality of the system instead of one SETA at a time: With the revised plan, it is anticipated that the onboarding processes will be completed within 12–24 months, starting November/ December 2024.

Modalities for subscription on eight (8) key processes was developed and adopted: This process includes a cost-plus 10% subscription model to enable capacitation of support processes. This model will undoubtedly save millions in rands for state funds for all participating entities.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) should be signed by MICT SETA, other SETAs, DHET, and QCTO amongst other parties, is being drafted: To enable this transition, it will be required that the MoA be concluded during Q3 of FY 2024/25.

Tshwane South TVET College Hosts Inaugural Employer Open Day: Bridging Education and Industry Gaps

Supplied by Zintle Maliwa



The College Acting Principal, Mr Goodman Mnisi, addressing the event

Tshwane South TVET College (TSC) recently hosted its inaugural Employer Open Day at the Pretoria West Campus, marking a significant milestone in fostering collaboration between the College and local industries. This event underscored the institution's commitment to enhancing educational offerings while simultaneously addressing the evolving needs of the job market.

The primary objectives of the Employer Open Day were two-fold: to promote the diverse range of courses offered by the College and to cultivate meaningful relationships with various current and prospective employers. By showcasing its academic programs, the College aimed to illustrate how its curriculum can directly benefit industries and align with their requirements.

Acting Principal, Mr Goodman Mnisi, highlighted the College's dedication to bridging the gap between education and industry. "The College has established trade test centres and offers trade test preparations, inviting industry partners to utilise these services, which are available to more than just our students," he said.

The Acting Principal emphasised the College's investment in high-tech machinery and state-of-the-art workshops designed to bolster production capabilities across various sectors.

"Together, we can create a dynamic partnership that levels the playing field and benefits the college, our students, individuals, and the industry," he concluded.

The event featured an inspiring keynote speech from Mr Pule Mashele, Regional Manager for Gauteng and the Free State in the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). He emphasised the crucial role of partnerships in shaping the future workforce of South Africa. "This event is not just a celebration of our accomplishments but a powerful reminder of the importance of collaboration between TVET institutions and industries. Together, we are building a bridge to a brighter, more skilled future," Mr Mashele remarked.

Deputy Principal Academic, Ms Nomsa Mathye, further elaborated on the significance of connecting students with employers at the time of registration. "The successful implementation of our occupational programs requires that all learners are linked with employers from the outset. This connection is vital in ensuring our students are not only prepared for the industry, but also aware of the expectations that await them," she explained. Ms Mathye expressed her belief that this initiative would enrich learners' educational experiences and strengthen the ties between the College and the industry.

The Employer Open Day stands as a testament to Tshwane South TVET College's proactive approach to education and its unwavering commitment to producing a skilled workforce ready to meet the challenges of today's economy. As the College continues to nurture these essential relationships, it paves the way for a collaborative environment where students and employers can thrive together.

Mr Rudolph Raphael, a representative from Highveld Industrial Park in Witbank, Mpumalanga, expressed his enthusiasm after attending the Employer Open Day, highlighting the exceptional quality of the facilities and workshops.

"The facilities and workshops are world class, and I am also impressed with the number of females trained here," he remarked, emphasising the institution's commitment to inclusivity and excellence in training. He further said: "I can confidently say for anyone looking for apprentices, this is the place to go," reinforcing the notion that this training centre not only meets industry standards, but also fosters a diverse and skilled workforce ready to meet the demands of the job market.

College Successfully Hosts The Annual Academic Awards Ceremony

Supplied by Lame Morubane

Motheo TVET College recently held a two-day, Academic Awards Ceremony at the College's National Artisan Development Academy (NADA) Campus. This Ceremony saw the College award 1 823 certificates and diplomas, an increase of 219 Academic Awards as compared to the 2023 academic year. The College achieved 98% pass percentage, with 80,3% in Business Studies, 76,5% in Engineering Studies and 86,4% in National Certificate Vocational (NC [V]) and lastly 138 diplomas were conferred.

During his keynote speech Gauteng and Free State DHET Regional Manager, Mr Pule Mashele said: "It is a great honour and privilege to be part of this ceremony. Congratulations to all the parents and students. You have made it. I remember my graduation, I know I had mixed emotions, as you sit here you are a testament that you have achieved. You are standing on the threshold of the future."

He continued by urging graduates to surround themselves with good people, when they network, and at their communities. "Surround yourselves with people who challenge and inspire you, people who are willing to guide you. Be kind and remain humble. You are the future leaders and the world is waiting for you. Don't be afraid to make a difference in our country."

Addressing the fully packed hall College Principal, Prof. Dipiloane Phutsisi said: "We are institutions of first choice. The College will be offering new ICT programmes in the 2025 academic year, such as Cyber Security, Computer Technician and Cloud Administration. As the College, we are venturing into fish farming in partnership with the Department of Fisheries and Forestry, and University of Stellenbosch.



Council Chairperson, Jabulani Tshabalala, Principal, Prof. Dipiloane Phutsisi and Gauteng and Free State Regional Manager, Pule Mashele



Council Chairperson, Jabulani Tshabalala, Principal's Award Recipient, Denicke Fredericks and College Principal, Prof. Dipiloane Phutsisi



Posthumous Graduate's Sister, Ms Fasiwe Mtshiwane, Motheo TVET College Principal, Prof. Dipiloane Phutsisi and Ntombezonke Kgoboko

We are also venturing into Boat Building, we are not underperforming institutions. We are key to the heartbeat of this country. To parents, thank you

for your support and granting us an opportunity to nurture your children. Our graduates go out there to create jobs and employ other young people."

AgriSETA contributes to the production of over 10 000 skilled graduates

Supplied by Tressa Mashao

AgriSETA celebrated 38 students who completed an Artisan Development Programme at Ekurhuleni Artisans and Skills Training Centre (EASTC) on 29 October 2024. These are the students funded through the AgriSETA's Discretionary Grants to train in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration, Bricklaying, Plumbing, Welding and Boilermaking, all of which are considered scarce skills needed by the economy.

Ekurhuleni Artisans Skills and Training College is a practical training college that focuses strongly on employable skills training in various technical trades.

EASTC Chief Executive Officer, Dr Dovhani Mamphiswana, spoke passionately about Artisan Development milestones and its impact over the past decade. "We thank AgriSETA and the National Skills Fund (NSF) for entrusting us with implementing Artisan Development Programmes. Today marks another step toward eradicating unemployment and hunger as we empower artisans to build prosperous futures," he said.

Students had the opportunity to be motivated by leaders who had once been in their shoes. Chief Executive Officer of AgriSETA, Dr Innocent Sirovha delivered the keynote address

at the graduation ceremony. During his address Dr Sirovha shared his career journey emphasising resilience and self-belief to overcome challenges to change his future to this end.

The graduation ceremony also honoured EASTC's legacy of producing over 10 000 skilled graduates since its establishment, advancing its mission to "Build Africa one skill at a time" and supporting the Decade of the Artisan which was launched in 2014 to be completed by 2024.



Proud young graduates who will be stepping out into the work arena

Celebrating a trailblazer in Clothing Production

Supplied by Palesa Gule

At Central Johannesburg College (CJC), we take pride in our alumni who have transformed humble beginnings into remarkable careers. Today, we celebrate Refiloe Dimithi Gololo, a dedicated entrepreneur and the proud owner of a thriving clothing factory in Highlands North, Johannesburg.

Refiloe's journey in clothing production began at Madibo High School in Zebediela, where her teacher, Moroko Maleka, introduced her to handwork and needlework. After matriculating in the year 2000 from Mamelodi, with an uncertain future, she seized the opportunity to enroll in a one-year sewing certificate programme sponsored by the Department of Labour. This certification opened doors for her to work in clothing factories across Johannesburg.

In 2011, following the passing of her employer at NixWear Boutique, Refiloe boldly stepped forward, starting her own factory. Her determination led her to further her education in 2019, enrolling for a Diploma in Clothing Production at CJC, Alex Campus, balancing her studies with running her business.

Growing a business with resilience Refiloe's factory has become a trusted partner to numerous clients, including Tourvest, Camelion, African Safaris, and even her former employer, NixWear Boutique. Her product range includes fabric accessories, wedding gowns, and bridesmaid dresses. The Covid-19 pandemic brought challenges but also opportunities, as her business adapted by producing masks, ensuring sustainability during a period when many others faced closure.

A passionate mentor, Refiloe currently employs three N6 Clothing Production students from CJC, marking the second

cohort she has nurtured. Her commitment to supporting future graduates reflects her desire to contribute to the growth of the clothing production industry.

Looking ahead, Refiloe is eager to overcome funding challenges, acquire more machinery, and expand her business. She is also passionate about addressing industry concerns, such as the impact of cheap imports on South Africa's textile sector.

"In a world that is ever-changing, studying Clothing Production was the

best choice I ever made. The unfortunate reality of Covid-19 taught us lessons, but it also gave us opportunities. My mentor, Jeffrey Smith from NixWear, inspired me greatly," says Refiloe. CJC is proud of Refiloe's achievements and wish her continued success as she elevates her business and creates opportunities for future graduates. She stands as a testament to the power of resilience, education, and determination.

Congratulations, Refiloe – a true trailblazer in clothing production!



Refiloe Dimithi Gololo showing some of her work

From Failing Grade 11 to Pursuing Culinary Dreams in the USA: The Inspiring Journey of TVET college student

Supplied by Zintle Maliwa

Karabo Khonou, a student at Tshwane South TVET College (TSC)'s Centurion Campus, is a living testament to the power of perseverance and determination. Despite facing setbacks, Karabo's unwavering commitment to his dreams led him from failing Grade 11 to working as a chef in California, the United States of America (USA). His journey exemplifies the transformative impact of education and the importance of never giving up on one's aspirations.



Karabo Khonou while on duty

Karabo's educational journey began with a setback when he failed Grade 11 at Pro Arte Alphen Park High School. Determined to forge his own path, he enrolled at TSC, where he pursued NC (V) studies. With unwavering dedication, he

continued his education, progressing through into General Studies N4 specialising in Hospitality.

Tshwane South TVET College played a pivotal role in shaping Karabo's career and preparing him mentally and physically for the challenges of the culinary industry. Under the guidance of his mentors, Karabo learned the importance of mastering his craft and acquiring a deep understanding of his chosen field. The College also provided opportunities for Karabo to develop leadership skills through his role as the Campus chairperson of the SRC, where he represented his peers in various workshops and council meetings.

One of the most valuable lessons Karabo took from his College experience is the importance of treating others with respect, regardless of cultural differences or environmental backgrounds. As a student leader, he discovered the power of standing up for oneself without resorting to violence. These lessons have not only shaped his professional conduct but also enhanced his personal growth.

Karabo's journey was not without challenges. While on his educational path, he faced a setback when he failed Applied Management N4. However, instead of giving up, he

swallowed his pride and focused on his studies, finishing the rest of his subjects. With the unwavering support of educators, who believed in his potential, Karabo resolved to make his dreams a reality.

Karabo's story serves as a beacon of hope for aspiring students, encouraging them to persevere, emphasising that no dream is too big or insignificant, urging them to stay strong, even when faced with hardships. Karabo believes that failure is not a roadblock but an opportunity to grow and learn. Visualising goals, dreams, and ambitions can be the driving force that propels individuals towards success.

A Culinary Dream Realised: Currently working at ALiLa Ventana in California, USA, Karabo has taken on the responsibility of the breakfast menu. Although challenging, this enriching experience allows him to showcase his culinary expertise and independence. His journey is a testament to the transformative power of education and the pursuit of one's passion.

Karabo's story serves as a reminder that setbacks are not roadblocks but stepping stones toward greatness.



Some of the dishes prepared by Karabo

Conversation with current CET student from Northern Cape CET College

Supplied by Mahlatse Galane



Ms Precious Lerato Seekoie

Where do you live?

I live in Phuthanang, Kimberley in the Northern Cape.

Where do you study?

I am currently pursuing End-User Computing at Thutong Centre, under the Helen Joseph Community Learning Centre as part of the Northern Cape Community College.

How did you come to know about the school?

When the programme was launched,

our coordinators enthusiastically shared the opportunity with us, urging us to attend at the launch, that's how I discovered this incredible programme.

How is the skill/programme going to assist you?

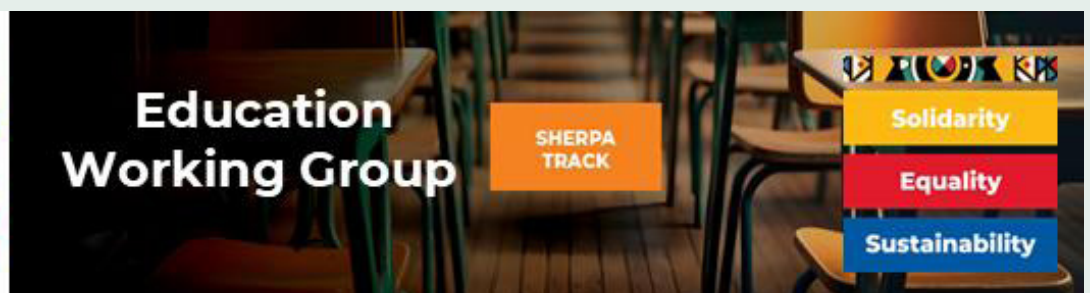
As the details unfolded, my interest flourished, recognising it as a chance to complete a comprehensive course in computer skills. I refuse to let this invaluable opportunity pass me by. I have inspired my co-workers to join as well, though many feel that they

are too old or cannot afford the taxi fare to the centre.

The skill holds great value for me, as companies increasingly seek computer-literate individuals. Even with just a matric certificate, I believe I have a strong chance of getting a better job offer upon completion of my studies.

What are your future plans?

My vision is to secure a better paying job, save diligently and eventually open my own hair salon, creating a legacy for my children.





higher education & training

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