

DUT ENGAGED

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SOCIAL IMPACT NEWSLETTER

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DUT EXPLORES THE CARNEGIE CLASSIFICATION FRAMEWORK DURING THE ENGAGEMENT SEMINAR: INSTITUTION TRANSFORMATION THROUGH A SELF-STUDY

The Department of Consumer Sciences Food and Nutrition in collaboration with the DUT Community Engagement at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) hosted the Engagement Seminar at the DUT Rendezvous Restaurant in Steve Biko Campus.

The seminar was facilitated by Professor Darren Lorton, Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics and the Chair of the South African Higher Education Community Engagement Forum (SAHECEF). In his opening, he welcomed the attendees and expressed his gratitude to the staff and students who had attended.

He gave context to why the Engagement Seminar was held which was to create a platform where staff and students can share their engagement projects, establish areas for collaboration, and explore the Carnegie Classification Framework that can assist DUT with a strategy to assess the institutions' extraordinary commitment to, investment in and accomplishment at addressing pressing issues faced by communities it serves.

The seminar started with presentations session where staff and students presented on engagement initiatives they are undertaking to support communities, which were introduced by Dr Heleen Grobbelaar, the Head of Department: Consumer Sciences Food and Nutrition at DUT. The projects that were shared reflected interdisciplinary, reciprocity, and impactful, aligning with the DUT's ENVISION2030.

The keynote speaker, Dr Marisol Morales, Executive Director of the Carnegie Elective Classifications at the American Council on Education, presented the 'Carnegie Community Engagement Classification: Institution Transformation through a Self-Study Process' where she



Pictured: Attendees at the engagement seminar.

explained the process and purpose of community engagement.

"The purpose of community engagement is the partnership of higher education institutions and the public and private sectors to enrich scholarship, research, and creative activity; enhance curriculum, teaching and learning; prepare educated engaged, engaged citizens; strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility; address critical societal issues; and contributes to the public good," she said.

"The collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity, is the process of engagement," added Morales.

She then introduced an Institutional Reflection and Self-Study Process for the DUT staff and students to critically engage with how DUT can measure its engagements' impact on the society it serves and in achieving its ENVISION2030 goal.

The DUT Engagement Practitioner, Phumzile Xulu, shared the importance of collaboration between the students and staff to support the inner and outer community of DUT.

"The seminar aligns with the DUT's ENVISION2030 because it showcases the engagements initiatives by our staff and students and the impact that these initiatives have in contributing to changing the lives and the livelihoods of our people. As we continue to develop the engagement agenda, it is important to we develop the engaged scholarship through sustainable engagements," said Xulu.

The closing remarks and vote of thanks were delivered by Prof Lorton, who thanked all the guests for their participation at the engagement seminar.

PATIENCE MAKHAYE



DUT TO EMPOWER REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL OF LEARNERS WITH KEY LEADERSHIP SKILLS



Pictured: The Student Governance and Development Team. Photographer: Mngqobi Ngobese

To groom future leaders and foster mutually beneficial partnerships, the Student Governance and Development unit in collaboration with Student Housing and Residence Life, Student Council and Health and Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT) at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) recently hosted a community engagement meeting to unpack its Representative Council of Learners (RCLs) Leadership Capacity Development Programme at the Coastlands Musgrave Hotel.

Chairing the meeting was Mr Masiza Ngculu, Manager: Student Governance and Development. Invited at the meeting were teachers from four high schools based in Durban and Midlands.

Student Governance and Development Officer, Ms Thokozani warmly welcomed the external stakeholders to the meeting, with a hope that it would lead to an impactful long-lasting relationship.

Mr Andile Masuku, Student Development Officer under the Student Governance and Development unit gave a brief insight on the proposed programme and how it will benefit the RCLs.

"The roles and functions of the RCL can be strenuous to be managed by learners who also have their matters to deal with. Most often these are vulnerable learners who are exposed to situations that are beyond their control

and imagination. The Leadership Capacity Development Programme (LCDP) is therefore imperative to empower RCLs with key leadership skills and other techniques that are related to leadership. It also intends to educate RCLs with leadership competencies which will eventually contribute to how they behave in school among their peers and the skills that they would need to possess to leverage their performance in executing their duties," shared Masuku.

He further unpacked the objectives of the Leadership Capacity Development Programme, which are to:

- Unleash the potential of leadership, holistic growth, and development among the RCLs.
- Enable the RCLs to understand their role while executing their duties within the school.
- Equip RCLs with appropriate skills and knowledge for them to create needed networks to harness their passion and contribute to a culture of positive social change.
- Build and strengthen the learner's level of self-awareness and confidence for them to identify and recognise their weakness and strengths which will eventually improve their abilities of leadership.

Speaking on the selection of the four schools that will be part of the LCDP, Masuku said the representation of schools was based on DUT campuses being in Durban and in the Midlands, hence choosing two schools in Durban and two schools in the Midlands. He revealed that the

programme will include elements of mentorship, leadership training, and development, and awarding of RCLs who have completed the programme.

Through the LCDP, the Student Governance and Development unit aims to create partnerships and lasting relationships with the identified schools and put DUT on a global map in driving change and contributing to the development of its surrounding communities through community engagement.

Mr Sandile Mnyandu, a teacher at Sibusisiwe Comp-Tech High School expressed his excitement on his school being one of the selected schools to be part of the LCDP. He shared that his school is mostly focused on academics and it would be great for the learners to be involved in other activities at the school over and above the academics. He felt this would help them to prepare for the university life, which will require more than academic excellence.

A matric Maths and Physics teacher at Bonela Secondary, Ms Shashika Maharaj also felt the LCDP will help in the development of their learners. She had pleaded with DUT to ensure the sustainability of this programme in order to develop the learners to be better leaders in the future.

In closing, Ms Refilwe Twala, a Senior Residence Life Officer at the DUT Housing and Residence Life unit thanked all the attendees for their fruitful discussions and commitment to the LCDP. She mentioned that the LCDP is aligned to DUT's ENVISION2030 strategy which encouraged DUT to be an engaged university, which strives to improve lives and livelihoods in the region, country and the world.

SIMANGELE ZUMA



Pictured: Students who attended the training with Adv Mohammed Vahed and DUT Ms Phumzile Xulu.

DUT HOSTS 'KEYS TO EXCELLENCE' TRAINING ON COMPETING WITH AI AND ROBOTS

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) Community Engagement, in collaboration with the Young Leaders Academy and sponsored by the IQRAA Trust, hosted an impactful Keys to Excellence training at the Steve Biko Campus. The training, which spanned four days, brought together two groups of students from across all six DUT faculties, who are eager to develop essential skills for competing in the fast-evolving job market shaped by AI and robotics.

The training aimed to equip students with the necessary skills to excel in both the world of work and business. With the growing impact of automation, the training focused on providing students with an edge in navigating the challenges posed by AI and robots.

Facilitated by Advocate Mohammed Vahed,



Pictured: Dr Baker the Chairman of the IQRAA Trust and Adv Vahed awarding a certificate to a student.

Founder of the Young Leaders Academy, the training covered a broad range of critical topics to prepare students for the future workplace.

Advocate Vahed shared insights on self-discipline and self-mastery, as well as strategies for developing critical thinking skills. A key session also offered practical tips on acing job interviews, with a focus on equipping students with strategies to successfully secure jobs. The training also addressed the high unemployment rate in the country, providing practical guidelines to help students overcome this challenge.

The training culminated in the presentation of certificates, recognising the students' participation and commitment to enhancing their skills.

The DUT Community Engagement extended its heartfelt appreciation to the IQRAA Trust for their generous sponsorship and to the Young Leaders Academy for delivering such a valuable and impactful training experience. This training is part of DUT's ongoing commitment to preparing students for success in an increasingly competitive and automated world.

PHUMEZA MSONGELWA



DUT CITY CAMPUS COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER FOR A CLEAN-UP INITIATIVE

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) City campus staff and students recently embarked on a clean-up campaign to restore the beauty of their campus and surrounding areas.

The clean-up was led by Mr Sibongiseni Mthalande, a technician from the Video Technology Department. This initiative aimed to tackle the growing issue of pollution in the area, particularly the surrounding area that had turned into a homeless spot.

The organisers plan to conduct follow-up clean-ups to ensure that the surrounding areas remain tidy and benefit the broader community. Additionally, they aim to engage with local authorities to address the root causes of pollution and work towards a long-term solution.

Mthalande explained the importance of taking ownership of their environment, stating: "The area outside our campus belongs to the municipality, but they have not been paying attention to it. So, we are taking it upon ourselves to clean it up and make our campus beautiful again."

He also highlighted the need for a collaborative effort, saying, "We want to create a clean and healthy environment that reflects positively on our campus and the community."

The clean-up was done by the DUT staff members, cleaners, maintenance department, and students working together to tidy up both the inside and outside of the campus.

Shepherd Xolo, a Lab Assistant from the Video Technology department, who participated in the clean-up, expressed his motivation for his



Pictured: DUT staff and students during the clean-up campaign. Photographer: Nondumiso Sibiya.

participation in the clean-up event.

"I want my work environment to be clean, and I'm grateful for this initiative. It will make our campus a healthy environment for everyone," he said.

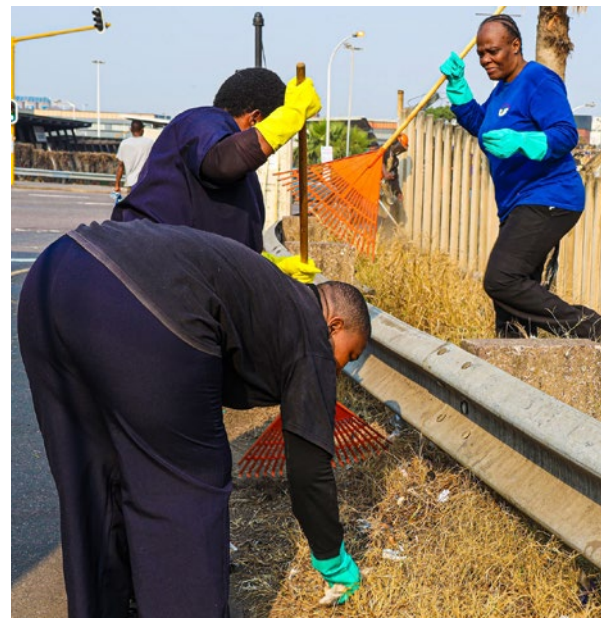
A Video Technology student, Mbuso Gumede also joined the clean-up, driven by a desire to see his campus clean and to be proud of his learning environment. He hoped that other departments will follow suit and contribute to maintaining a clean and healthy campus.

The clean-up initiative has sparked a sense

of community and social responsibility among the staff and students at the City campus. As Mthalande noted: "This is not just about cleaning up our campus, but also about taking care of our neighbours and the environment we share."

The success of this initiative has set an example for future collaborations between staff, students, and the community to maintain a clean, healthy, and beautiful campus environment.

SINAMILE SITHOLE





Pictured: The team from DUT, Albaraka Bank, Bringer of Light to Young Souls, and the guest speakers, at the event.

CAREER DAY 2024: EMPOWERING MATRICULANTS FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

The Albaraka Bank, in collaboration with the Durban University of Technology (DUT) and the Bringer of Light to Young Souls, spearheaded the Matric Career Day; an event aimed at equipping matriculants with essential insights and opportunities for their future endeavours. The event, held at Ixopo proved to be an invaluable experience for over 700 students from six esteemed schools.

The primary objective of the Career Day 2024 was to empower matriculants by providing them with vital knowledge and resources to navigate their transition into tertiary education and beyond. Through engaging presentations and interactive sessions, students were exposed to various career paths, entrepreneurship opportunities, and educational prospects.

Distinguished presenters from educational institutions such as DUT, alongside representatives from municipalities, local businesses, and BMWV, offered valuable advice on career selection, university applications, and the importance of self-discipline. Topics ranging from bursaries and youth development to entrepreneurship and motivational journeys were thoroughly explored, enriching the students' understanding of their future prospects.

Fathima Mohamed, CSR Officer at Albaraka Bank, emphasised the significance of the event,



Pictured: The team from Albaraka Bank at the event.

stating, "Career Day 2024 exemplifies our commitment to supporting and nurturing the aspirations of young people. By providing them with access to information and mentorship, we empower them to chart their paths towards a prosperous future."

Phumzile Xulu, the Engagement Practitioner

from DUT, praised the collaborative effort behind the successful Career Day, commending the partnership between DUT, Albaraka Bank, and the Bringer of Light to Young Souls. She highlighted the event's role in inspiring and guiding Grade 12 learners towards their future endeavours, acknowledging the speakers' contributions in shaping the students' aspirations and providing valuable insights into diverse career options.

In conclusion, the representatives for the Bringer of Light to Young Souls extended their gratitude to all participating schools, sponsors, and volunteers for their unwavering support, making Career Day 2024 a resounding success. Through such initiatives, the collective effort continues to inspire and empower the next generation of leaders and innovators, ensuring a brighter future for all.

PHUMEZA MSONGELWA

“Career Day 2024 exemplifies our commitment to supporting and nurturing the aspirations of young people. By providing them with access to information and mentorship, we empower them to chart their paths towards a prosperous future.”

– FATHIMA MOHAMED

DUT LIBRARY DONATES TO MANDELA'S 67 BLANKETS INITIATIVE



Pictured: DUT Library Staff showcasing donated items. Photography: Romeo Matumba

The Library Community Outreach Project Team, led by Sarah Khan from the Durban University of Technology (DUT), has partnered with an external charity organisation headed by Franki Hills, to launch a donation drive for the 67 Blankets for Mandela Day initiative. This drive aims to collect blankets, scarves, beanies, booties and berets. Since 2014, the charity organisation has been recognised in the Guinness Book of World Records four times, for its impactful achievements. The crocheted items, made by DUT Library staff members, are a gesture of care for the most vulnerable, especially during the winter season.

In upholding the strategic objectives outlined in the university's ENVISION2030, the Library Community Outreach Project Team has forged a partnership with the DUT Community Engagement for mutually beneficial collaborations on several other initiatives. The handover event for the crocheted items took place at BM Patel Library, ML Sultan Campus, on 12 June 2024 and was attended by the Library Management Team, Library Community Outreach Project Team, Phumzile Xulu from the Engagement Office, and Franki Hills from the charity organisation. The Library Marketing and Communication Librarian, Romeo Matumba facilitated the programme.

The welcome and background were delivered by Sarah Khan which was then followed by a note from the Library Services Director, Dr Malefetjane Phaladi. Dr Phaladi expressed his profound excitement and admiration for the exceptional work accomplished by the team.

"What we see here is a portfolio of evidence showcasing DUT's service to humanity. I cannot find a better way to express what I am feeling right now as I witness DUT's distinctive, creative, and impactful contributions to the well-deserving people in our communities," he stated.

When highlighting the project scale and way



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– DR PHALADI

forward, Franki Hills emphasised the importance of collaboration to demonstrate love and care for others. She praised everyone who dedicated their efforts to complete the task as the winter season grew colder. "I know that our orphans and senior citizens who will receive these donated items will be grateful for this warm gesture from the DUT library staff," added Hills.

Mr Siza Radebe delivered the vote of thanks, acknowledging the library community outreach team and other key stakeholders, including the 67 Blankets for Mandela Day organisation, colleagues from the RIE ambit, and library staff who contributed to the success of this initiative.

ROMEO MATUMBA



Pictured: Learners and teachers are all smiles at the Career Expo.

IEIP CONTINUES TO EMPOWER THE IMBALI COMMUNITY THROUGH ITS THIRD ANNUAL CAREER EXPO

The Imbali Education and Innovation Precinct (IEIP) continues with sterling work by sharing information with the schools that form part of the IEIP. They had recently collaborated with the Durban University of Technology (DUT): Department of Student Administration and DUT Career Resources Centre for its third annual career guidance at Zibukezulu Secondary School and Sukuma Comprehensive High School.

Facilitating the programme for the day was the Imbali Education and Innovation Precinct Public Relations (PR) and Marketing Assistant: Ms Zanele Mashaba. She outlined the importance of the Career Expo and encouraged the learners to listen assiduously as the session concluded with a question and answer session.

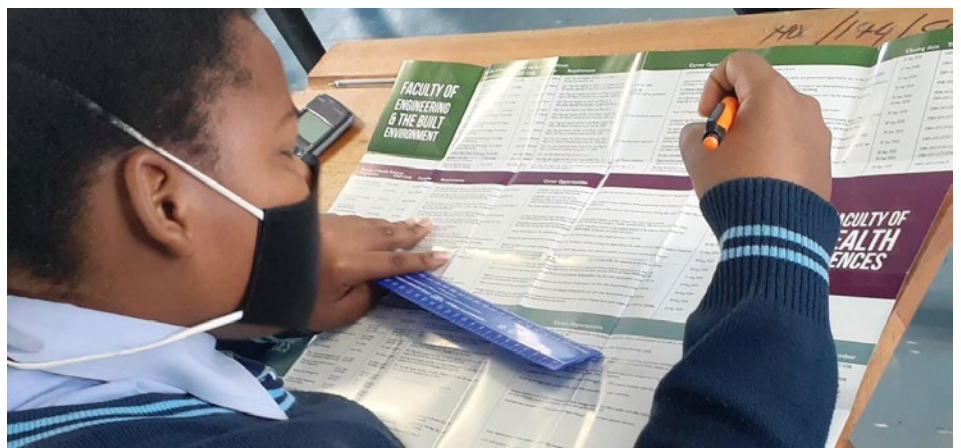
Project Manager-Imbali Education and Innovation Precinct, Dr Mfanozelwe Shoji welcomed everyone and unpacked the purpose of the day.

"It gives me great pleasure that the IEIP has fulfilled their promise as we celebrate the third annual Career Expo. For the past year we had witnessed that such information contributes to the knowledge of the learners hence, we continue bringing knowledge to the learners. It is important to take this opportunity seriously so you will be able to learn," he said.

DUT Midlands Student Administration Clerks: Ms Amanda Makalima and Mrs Zamandosi Ndlovu presented the DUT programmes offered and opportunities on how to navigate the DUT website and the Central Application Office (CAO) application process.

DUT Career Resource Officer, Ms Sindisiwe Dlamini encouraged the learners to apply before the closing dates as universities are unlikely to accept walk-ins.

"The CAO has made the application



process easy for students. Therefore, it is your responsibility to apply before the closing date. This will also benefit you financially because late applications cost more. It is important to create a professional email username and use your working cellphone numbers to stay updated about the application status," she said.

Moreover, Dlamini requested that learners research the various careers they would consider venturing into. She emphasised the importance of choosing a career that they are passionate about. The learners were encouraged to make informed and wise career choices by considering their personalities, interests, values, and abilities. She also highlighted that she is available for more in-

depth sessions on campus at DUT.

After all the presentations were delivered, there was a question and answer session which allowed the learners to get clarity in whatever information they had missed. Sukuma Comprehensive High School teacher, Machoba thanked everyone who made the Career Expo a success.

"On behalf of the school, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the DUT and IEIP staff members for dedicating this day to interact with our learners. This was indeed a successful and informative session and we hope the learners will be able to use it to their advantage," she concluded.

ZANELE MASHABA



Pictured: Golden Key Chapter members handing over toiletries to Phakimpilo at DUT.

GOLDEN KEY DUT CHAPTER SPEARHEADED TOILETRY DRIVE TO ASSIST NEEDY STUDENTS

In support to the Phakimpilo Programme, the Golden Key International and Student Counselling and Health, organised a toiletry drive 2024 to support the Durban University of Technology (DUT) students in need who are unable to afford basic toiletries.

The aim of this drive was to provide relief and support to students who are struggling, as they felt access to basic toiletries is often overlooked yet is essential for personal hygiene and overall well-being. The recent drive collected multiple toiletry items such as toothpaste, bathing soaps, toothbrushes, deodorant body sprays, body lotions and female sanitary products (tampons and pads) to help those in need in the student community.

Collection boxes were established at the following sites with the help of Student Counselling: Alan Pitterndrigh Library, Chiropractic clinic, BM Patel Library, City campus Library, Indumiso Library and campus clinic, Riverside Library and Student Counselling Unit.

Golden Key DUT Chapter President Jessica

Alberts said collaborations with other units made the drive to be more successful, as they received additional items from them. "We received great assistance through collaboration with the Somatology clinic and HIV and AIDS centre to raise more toiletry items. A substantial amount of donations was received from this partnership," she said.

In their bid to attract more donors, Golden Key also collaborated with the somatology clinic by offering a special of a free back and neck massage or 50% off a full body massage to all individuals who donated with two or more toiletry items in support of the #GoldenKeyToiletryDrive.

Golden Key Golden Key DUT Chapter Co-President Indivile Cici shared words of appreciation to the entire DUT community who

participated in the drive.

"Our recent toiletry drive was a successful project, thanks to all stakeholders such as DUT departments, staff and students. Together, we collected numerous essential items that will provide comfort and dignity to those in need. The outpouring of support was truly heart-warming, showcasing the power of a united DUT community. Each donation, big or small, made a significant impact, and we are immensely grateful to all who contributed. Let us continue this spirit of giving and making a positive difference in our DUT community as it will have an influence in ENVISION2030," she concluded.

THUBELIHLEDUMAKUDE

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– INDIVILE CICI



Engagement at DUT is the portfolio under the office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research Innovation and Engagement (DVC-RIE), Durban University of Technology (DUT). The Engagement Office champions initiatives, efforts, and activities that focus on establishing the University as a responsible, relevant and active partner of the community in addressing the needs of society. Through engagement, the University facilitates collaboration among DUT staff, students, alumni and the community for meaningful university-community engagements. This newsletter seeks to capture and showcase engagement projects that have been initiated by staff and students as part of service learning, community-based research, community outreach or volunteering for positive social impact. Showcasing these projects recognizes staff, students and social partners for their exceptional commitment to contributing in changing the lives and livelihoods of our people, in line with the ENVISION2030's goal.

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