

DUT HOSTS A SUCCESSFUL SCIENCE WEEK FOR MAHLABATHINI LEARNERS

The Durban University of Technology (DUT), in collaboration with the Mahlabathini CMC, conducted its Science Week from 24-28 June 2024. The event is supported under the Mahlabathini Schools Engagement Programme (MSEP) which was launched in 2020 and aims to assist schools and learners within the Mahlabathini Circuit under the Zululand District with addressing challenges they face in accessing quality education.

During the Science Week, the programme hosted workshops attended by 50 schools and involving 1700 Grade 12 learners. The workshops featured science experiments, and career guidance sessions, and provided educational materials crucial for enhancing educational outcomes and supporting tertiary education applications. The workshops were facilitated by staff and post-graduate students from the Chemistry Department, who demonstrated the science experiments that are prescribed in the chemistry and physical science Grade 12 CAPS curriculum. The Programme was also supported by staff from the Short Course Unit and the Faculty of Management Sciences who engaged teachers on the extended learning courses relevant to teachers offered by DUT.

Awande Zulu, a learner from Emkhombe High School, expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the programme, "I am thrilled because, in our public schools, we usually don't have access to science laboratories. This workshop provided me with many valuable experiences. I learned that before you start the experiments you must protect yourself from laboratory chemicals."

Aneliswa Mtshali a learner from Ondini High School expressed her appreciation for the



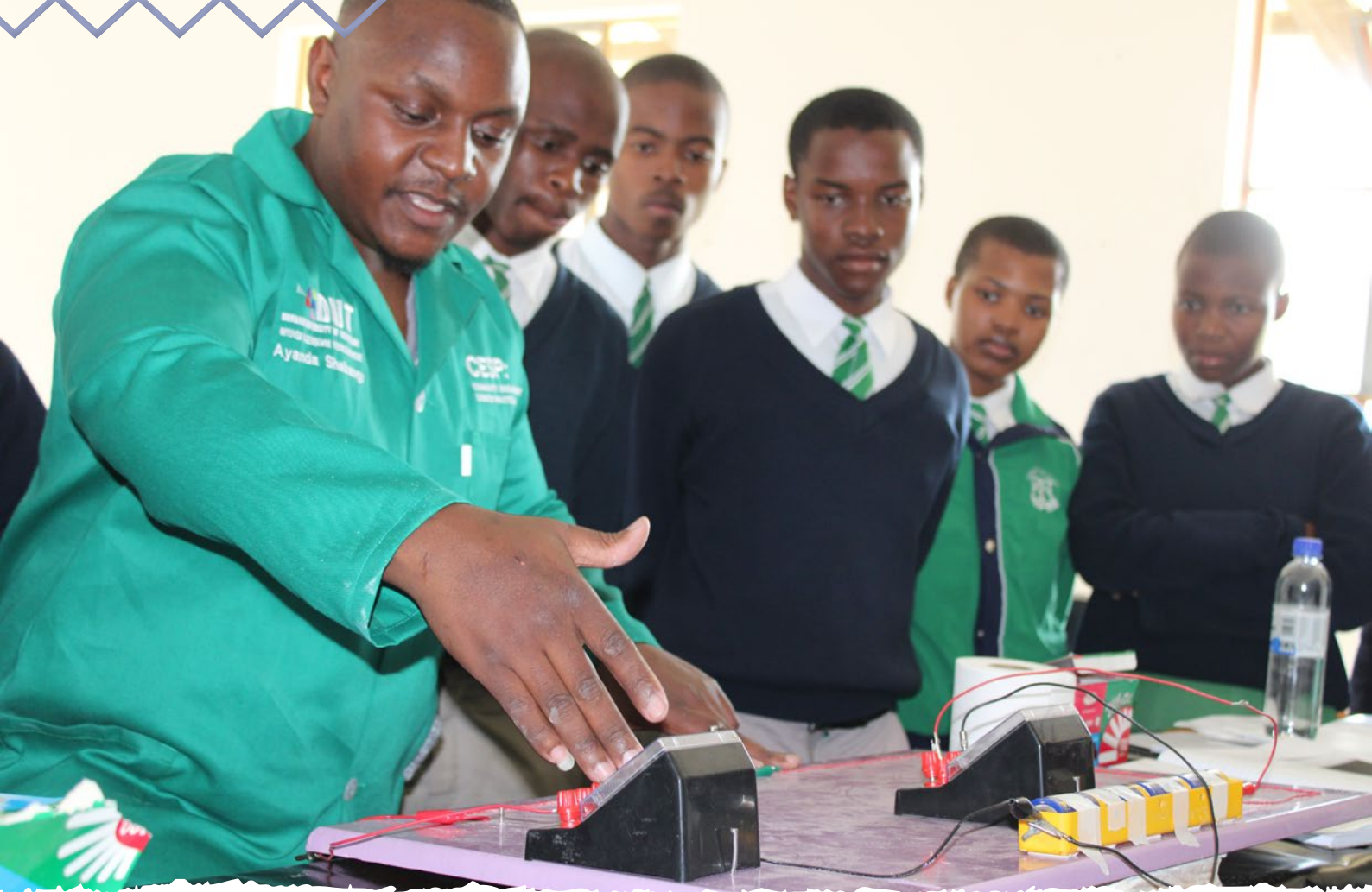
Pictured: Learners from Mabhidla and Sibanisakhe High Schools with DUT facilitators during the practicals.

programme facilitators, saying, "I am happy with the way this workshop was conducted. The educators were very attentive and could see when we did not understand. They explained everything to us."

The programme's success is greatly upheld by the invaluable support and assistance of the programme team made up of staff and students

from DUT and the Mahlabathini CMC. The team's dedication and expertise play a pivotal role in advancing this initiative and achieving the goals set out for the programme. This collaborative effort between DUT and the Mahlabathini CMC underscores a commitment to improving educational access and outcomes for learners in rural communities, fostering academic growth

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– PHILISWA DLAMINI

and career development among young people in Mahlabathini.

Most of the students and staff who participated as facilitators in the programme reflected that their participation proved to be a fulfilling experience. “The programme helped learners from Mahlabathini gain insights into how different topics from their curriculum are conducted experimentally in the laboratory,” shared Carol Dlamini, a first-year Masters Student from the Chemistry Department.

Philasande Mlatha, also a Masters Student from the Chemistry Department who joined the programme for the first time as a facilitator, shared that her experience has deeply influenced her perspective ‘on paying it forward’. “Witnessing the learners’ expressions as they interacted with the burette was unforgettable. It reinforced my belief that practical applications significantly enhance the understanding of theoretical concepts already learned,” she said.

Philiswa Dlamini from the DUT’s Short Course Unit expressed her appreciation for being part of the support team. She said that it was an honour and a humbling experience to join the team and visit the schools at Mahlabathini

for Science Week. “The programme is at the centre of our ENVISION2030 delivery, achieving the goal of engaging communities through positively influencing and providing solutions for societal problems. The project is in line with the University’s core business (education) and prepares and improves the laboratory readiness of Grade 12 learners for when they enter higher education. Also, it addresses a huge capacity gap, nationally, in the delivery of the Physical Science subject by the BEd teachers to public schools in townships and rural areas. It is heart-warming to see the potential that is shown by learners during the practicals and it is proof that their only limitation is the availability of resources,” she said. Ms Dlamini also shared that she was very proud of the meticulous and patient delivery of the practicals by the DUT postgraduate students and staff. The future is surely bright and is in the right hands.

Moving forward the team is looking at ways to support building capacity for the teachers to run the experiments assisting the schools with materials and equipment needed to conduct the practicals and making the science laboratories in schools more functional. As Xoliswa Cele, the

Chief Education Specialist in the Mahlabathini CMC shared, “The schools do not have functional laboratories. For most schools, it was for the first time that the learners experienced real-life laboratory materials and equipment. The whole set-up of the programme was excellent. We would appreciate the continuity of the programme for the improvement of the National Senior Certificate in Physical Sciences results in the CMC.”

Phumzile Xulu, the DUT’s Engagement Practitioner, expressed her appreciation to the programme team for its exceptional participation and contribution during the Science Week at Mahlabathini. She commended the team for its collaborative spirit and commitment and for showcasing its best capabilities and professionalism in the delivery of the programme. “The Stewardship displayed by our staff and students is phenomenal and is a testimony of how we have adopted the DUT’s Living Values and Principles and are living the ‘DUT Way’ and that all our engagements are truly creative, distinctive, and impactful,” she said.

PHUMEZA MSONGELWA/PHUMZILE XULU

DUT'S FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES SPREADS JOY AND COMPASSION IN CELEBRATION OF MANDELA MONTH

The Faculty of Health Sciences at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) recently brightened the lives of residents at Emuseni Home for the Aged in Pietermaritzburg with a touching Mandela Day initiative titled '67 Minutes of Nurturing the Elderly in Unit.' This event, which was part of the university's 67 Minutes of Mandela Day celebration, saw a spirited assembly of DUT staff and students from Nursing, Somatology and Chiropractic and Dental Assisting departments.

The visit aimed to honour and uplift the elderly residents of Emuseni, showcasing DUT's commitment to community service and the values enshrined in the ENVISION2030 strategy. The university's initiative highlighted their dedication to making a positive impact in the community.

The elderly residents were warmly welcomed and treated to a range of thoughtful gestures. Donations included essential items such as mattresses, pillows, bathroom tissues, washing powder, along with DUT hampers. The day also featured a range of enriching activities: the students provided health education, offered massages, and entertained the residents with music from their choir. The day before, the students had also contributed to giving Emuseni a fresh look with a much-needed paint facelift.

Mr Nkabinde, representing the Office of the Councillor of Ward 22, spoke at the event, expressing gratitude to DUT for their unwavering commitment to the elderly. He highlighted the significance of understanding our purpose on



Pictured: DUT Nursing students with the residents of Emuseni home for the elderly.

earth and emphasized the importance of giving back to the community. Mr. Nkabinde also commended the various contributions the DUT's Faculty of Health Sciences has made through its community projects and encouraged students to remember their roots and continue their service to others. His words resonated deeply: "Doing good to others is not a duty but a joy, because it increases your happiness as well as your health."

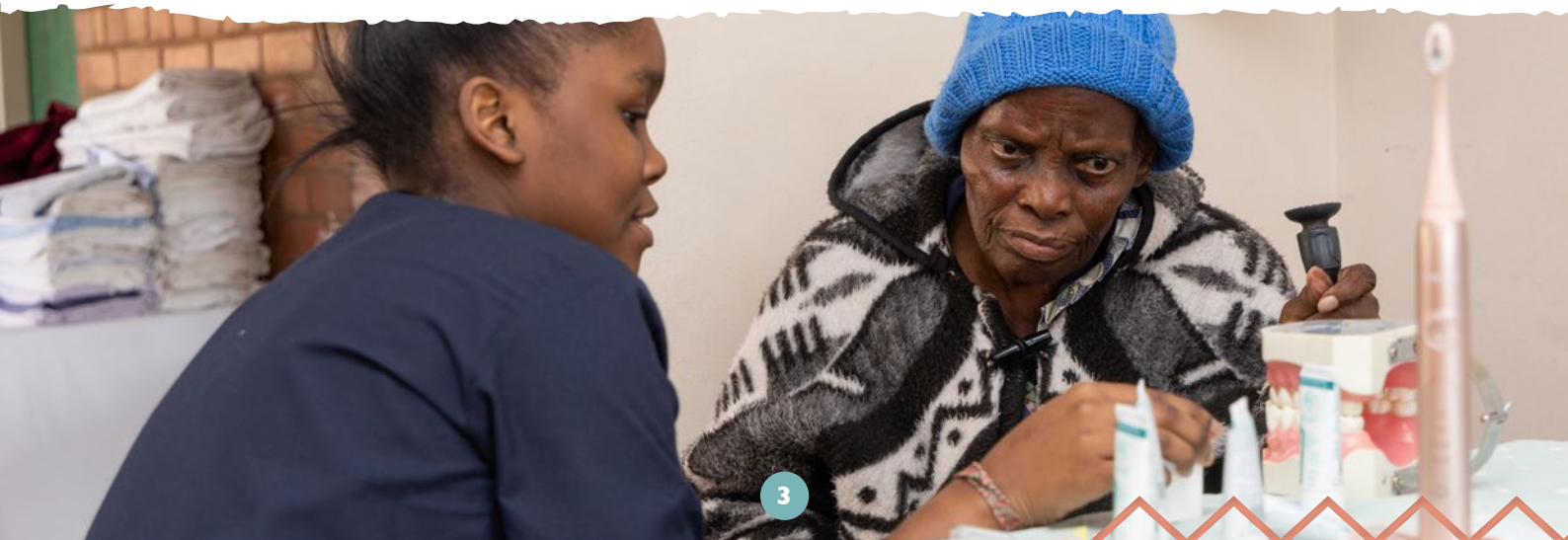
Ms Mkhize, a resident of Emuseni, expressed her heartfelt thanks to DUT for their continuous support. "Our home has been painted and is looking nice and clean. We are very thankful to DUT for everything you do for us," she exclaimed.

The gift-giving was spearheaded by Ms Ngcobo, who led the project with dedication. She took the opportunity to acknowledge

and thank the generous donors who made the day possible. Special thanks were given to the students from the Faculty of Health Sciences for their pillow donations, past DUT Alumni for their contributions of mattresses and bathroom tissues, Njingi Projects for their donation of washing powder, Rose Projects for their food contribution for the students on the day, TX Energy and DUT for the painting and gift hampers.

The day's activities were a beautiful reminder of the power of community spirit and the joy of giving back. Through their actions, the DUT's Faculty of Health Sciences not only brightened the lives of the elderly residents at Emuseni but also demonstrated the enduring impact of service and compassion.

PHUMEZA MSONGELWA AND VUKANI LANGA



DUT PROMOTES MOBILE DIGITAL LITERACY AMONG ESHOWE HIGH SCHOOL LEARNERS

The Durban University of Technology (DUT), in collaboration with the National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa (NEMISA) and the Emmanuel Biyela Educational Foundation, hosted a highly successful Career Day and Mobile Digital Literacy initiative for learners in Eshowe. This impactful event, by DUT's Short Course Unit, engaged 400 dedicated grade 11 and 12 students from Princess Langazana High School.

The Career Day component of the event provided students with valuable insights into DUT's six faculties, guidance on application procedures through the Central Applications Office (CAO), and comprehensive career counselling. Additionally, the DUT Short Course Unit introduced the Mobile Digital Literacy course, highlighting its benefits and relevance in today's digital age.

The event also featured the participation of esteemed organisations such as MICTSETA, Cedara College, the Department of Agriculture, and the local Police forum, all of whom offered specialised career guidance and information about their respective fields.

Looking forward, the DUT Short Course Unit, alongside its partners, is committed to returning to Eshowe.



Pictured: DUT's Cindy Stewart with learners from Princess Langazana Secondary School.

Their upcoming visit will extend the educational outreach to two additional schools: Bhakeshowe and Matheku High Schools. These visits are scheduled for 5-8 August 2024 and aim to provide Mobile Digital Training to over 1000 learners from Grades 10 to 12. The training will consist of a comprehensive one-day online course with 14 assignments. Upon successful completion, participants will receive a certificate acknowledging their achievement.

This initiative not only equips youth with essential digital literacy skills but also fosters collaboration among educational institutions and community stakeholders, thereby contributing to sustainable development and empowerment in the region.

PHUMEZA MSONGELWA





Pictured: Learners from Intumbane Primary School receiving books from the DUT's Bergville Schools Engagement Project

DUT PROMOTES LITERACY IN BERGVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The Durban University of Technology (DUT), in collaboration with IkusasaLentsha successfully handed over reading books to four primary schools in the Bergville area as part of their Book Club/Literacy Programme on 12 July 2024.

Launched in 2023 under the university's Bergville Schools Engagement Project, the Book Club aims to enhance reading and writing skills, helping learners to read with understanding while fostering their creativity. The Programme supports Intumbane, Bambanani, Vulamehlo, and Sbvane Primary Schools, reaching around 800 learners in Grades 5, 6, and 7.

The Principal of Intumbane Primary, Mr Mazibuko, expressed gratitude for the Programme, stating, "This initiative will help our children read fluently and with understanding. I believe a child who reads well will succeed anywhere in life."

Ms Shabalala, an educator at Bambanani Primary School, highlighted the increased motivation among the learners: "We have seen more and more kids visiting the reading corner in classes and it's not only the kids in the Book Club but also other children. Though the Book-A-Thon (Reading Competition) is a cherry on top, the learners are looking forward to the competition."

Grade 7 learner, Nokubonga Xaba, from Bambanani Primary thanked DUT for the opportunity to participate in the Book Club, emphasising its positive impact on the education of all the learners.

This year, six books were selected for the Book Club, all of which will be featured in the Book-A-Thon competition later this year. Each school will select 10 learners to compete in categories including book review, poetry, short story writing, and two new categories such as skits and debate for Grade 7 learners.

Andiswa Ngubane who recently joined the Community Engagement Team as an Intern, shared her enthusiasm for the Programme: "The excitement from the schools is heartening and showcases the potential of this initiative. As the Zulu proverb 'Ligotshwa lise manzi', suggests when applied to education it means that if you want to educate a nation, you must do it while it is still young. I am hopeful this programme will help improve reading comprehension among learners and foster connections and intellectual growth."

In the coming weeks, DUT will visit the four primary schools to conduct workshops supported by the DUT's Library Unit, which are aimed at preparing learners for the Book-A-Thon across all categories. These workshops will provide valuable support and guidance to help learners excel in their reading, writing, and creative skills, ensuring learners are fully equipped to participate in the competition.

Through the Book Club/Literacy Programme, DUT is paving the way for a brighter future for young learners in Bergville.

PHUMEZA MSONGELWA

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– MS SHABALALA

DUT HOSTS INSPIRING WOMEN IN ENGINEERING HIGH TEA



The Durban University of Technology (DUT) Department of Industrial Engineering held a Women in Engineering High Tea, celebrating the contributions of women in the field and addressing the challenges they face. The event that took place on the 01 August 2024, aimed to inspire high school learners to consider engineering careers, in response to the significant gender disparity within the profession.

In his opening remarks, Professor Rathilal, Acting Executive Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment at DUT, underscored the event's dual purpose: to honour the achievements of women engineers and to highlight the ongoing obstacles they encounter. Professor Rathilal pointed out that women represent only 22% of the global engineering workforce and just 7% in South Africa. "We need to have active drives to correct the negative and incorrect perceptions that engineering is predominantly for males," he stated.

The High Tea welcomed Grade 9 female learners from four secondary



schools: Zwelibanzi, Qhilika, Umkhumbane, and Wiggins Secondary Schools. The learners were introduced to the engineering world, gaining insights into various engineering disciplines, understanding the challenges, and learning about career opportunities. They also received detailed information on bursaries and application processes.

Ananza Mofokeng from Qhilika Secondary School expressed her enthusiasm, saying, "I gained a lot of information about the different types of engineering, especially civil engineering. Since I have always had a passion for it, this has just confirmed that it is indeed the career for me."

Similarly, Samkelisiwe Thusi from Zwelibanzi High School shared her excitement: "I received a lot of information about engineering that I was not aware of and I got inspired. I may consider engineering in the future."

The event featured speeches from accomplished women engineers who shared their personal journeys and offered insights into various engineering fields. Their experiences served as a powerful motivator for the students, highlighting the diverse opportunities within the engineering sector.

PHUMEZA MSONGELWA



EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE AND RESCUE PROVIDING VITAL HEALTHCARE TO DURBAN COMMUNITIES

One of the core principles of the Durban University of Technology (DUT) is to be an Engaged University, actively cultivating and sustaining meaningful, mutually beneficial partnerships that enable the institution to interact with and positively impact the broader society it serves. In line with this commitment, the Department of Emergency Medical Care and Rescue in the Faculty of Health Sciences recently collaborated on a significant community outreach initiative, Operation Hope: A Beacon of Compassion and Care.

Mr Melvin Chetty, a lecturer in the Department of Emergency Medical Care and Rescue (EMCR), provided insight into this impactful programme. He explained that on 29 June 2024, the Hope Foundation launched Operation Hope, a community engagement initiative designed to deliver essential healthcare services to residents of Sydenham, Mayville, and the wider Durban area.

"The initiative was conceived as a response to the pressing need for accessible healthcare in underserved areas. Inspired by the vision of the Durban Christian Centre, the Hope Foundation sought to extend its mission of 'Helping Our People Everywhere' by mobilising medical professionals to deliver free healthcare services. The project aimed not only to address immediate medical needs but also to foster a sense of unity and compassion within the community," he said.

He further explained that the Emergency Medical Care and Rescue department at DUT recently sent a dedicated team of staff and students to assist the community on a day service with healthcare needs. "Community engagement projects like Operation Hope are vital as they provide students with invaluable real-world experience, allowing them to apply their academic knowledge in practical settings. These projects instil a sense of responsibility and empathy in future healthcare professionals, preparing them to serve diverse communities with competence and compassion," he commented.

Chetty explained that Operation Hope aligns seamlessly with DUT's ENVISION2030 strategy,



Pictured: The EMCR staff members and students who had participated in Operation Hope.

which emphasises the importance of community engagement, innovation, and societal impact. "By participating in this initiative, DUT reaffirms its commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of the people it serves, while also promoting the values of social responsibility and ethical practice among its students," he said.

In terms of the project and the roles played by DUT staff and students, Chetty emphasised that under the guidance of the lecturers in the EMCR Department, DUT students played a pivotal role in the success of Operation Hope.

"The students conducted medical consultations to screen patients and allocate them to the correct departments for further care. The students were also responsible for measuring the vital signs of hundreds of community members. Their dedication and professionalism were evident as they worked through the large patient volumes with a positive attitude and unwavering commitment," he professed.

Chetty affirmed that the community's reaction to the project itself was overwhelmingly positive. He relayed that the residents expressed their gratitude for the care and attention they had received, highlighting the compassion and professionalism of the DUT team. "Many patients and staff members specifically noted the positive impact of DUT's involvement, praising the students for their bedside manner and meticulous attention to detail," added Chetty.

He reiterated that one of the standout

moments of Operation Hope was witnessing the teamwork and collaborative spirit of the DUT students and staff. "Despite the challenges, their ability to work together seamlessly ensured that all patients received the highest standard of care. The initiative not only provided immediate healthcare services but also fostered a sense of hope and solidarity within the community," he said.

Chetty highlighted that Operation Hope is an ongoing project, reflecting the enduring commitment of the Hope Foundation at the Durban Christian Centre Church and DUT to support and uplift communities in need.

The EMCR department further focused on other forthcoming future initiatives which will continue to build on the success of this event, with plans to expand services and reach more areas in Durban. "Looking ahead, the EMCR department has several community engagement projects in the pipeline, including health education workshops, preventive care initiatives, and further medical outreach programmes aimed at addressing the holistic health needs of the community," he said.

Chetty indicated that Operation Hope showcased DUT's commitment to community engagement, compassion, and collaboration. "By providing essential healthcare services and fostering unity, the initiative reflects DUT's dedication to making a tangible difference in the lives of people with the greatest need," he said.

WAHEEDA PETERS

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– MR MELVIN CHETTY



EMPOWERING FUTURE WOMEN IN STEM: A DIALOGUE ON SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND ARCHITECTURE

Pictured: DUT's Ms Hlengekile Lubanyana with learners from Bonela Secondary School.

In celebration of the Women's Month, the Durban University of Technology (DUT) Community Engagement, in collaboration with its social partners, Ikamva Youth and the Umkhumbane Schools Project (USP) under the Architectural Design and Engineering (ADE) Programme, hosted a Women in Science and Engineering Dialogue. The event took place at the West City Fellowship in Chesterville on 17 August 2024 and aimed to honour women in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) sectors while addressing the challenges they face and encouraging young female learners to pursue STEM careers.

The dialogue focused on celebrating female achievements and overcoming barriers in a field traditionally dominated by men. It welcomed Grade 10 female learners from schools in Cato Manor and surrounding areas, and featured four distinguished women from the STEM industry as guest speakers.

The guest speakers were Ms Xoliswa Feikie, Civil Engineering lecturer at DUT, Ms Namhla Mtukushe, Electrical Power Engineering lecturer at DUT, Ms Hlengekile Lubanyana Department of Chemistry lecturer at DUT and Ms Lindelwe Sithole, DUT Alumni and Architectural Technologist.

The speakers shared their experiences and the significance of having more women in STEM fields. They spoke about their personal journeys, the hurdles they overcame, and the impact of their work on their communities.

Ms. Feikie emphasised the urgent need for female innovators in STEM: "If you are a woman

and you are still in high school, in STEM we need you. We need people like you, we need innovators, we need thinkers." She highlighted the crucial role that young female engineers could play in addressing community issues.

Ms. Mtukushe, hailing from Flagstaff in the Eastern Cape, shared her journey into STEM, emphasising how determination and hard work helped her achieve her academic goals despite initial academic challenges. She encouraged students to view STEM as a means to solve community problems.

The event was marked by active participation from the learners, who engaged with the speakers, took notes, and learned about various engineering and chemistry fields. They were also provided with guidance on applying for STEM programs and the academic requirements needed.

Asanda Shabalala from Umkhumbane Secondary School expressed newfound clarity about her career path, stating, "As a science

learner, I've been doubting my capability. Today I realised my passion lies in Biochemistry, where I can help patients and bring change."

Lisakhanya Bokhwe from Bonela Secondary School shared her inspiration, saying, "This event has shown me many career opportunities related to my school subjects. I was particularly inspired by the lecturers and their experiences."

Ms Thandazo Jafta, District Manager of Ikamva Youth, praised the event's success: "This event was a huge success. The learners had the chance to hear from professionals who come from similar backgrounds. It demonstrated that no matter who you are or where you come from, you can still achieve your goals."

The dialogue was a meaningful step towards inspiring and empowering the next generation of women in STEM, illustrating the potential and importance of female representation in these fields.

PHUMEZA MSONGELWA

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– MS THANDAZO JAFTA

DUT EMPOWERS YOUNG GIRLS AT GCINIMFUNDO SECONDARY SCHOOL

The Durban University of Technology's (DUT) Video Technology Department hosted an informative Empower Her Essentials Outreach at Gcinimfundo Secondary School on Thursday, 29 August 2024. This significant event aimed to inspire and equip young girls with essential resources and motivational support to foster their confidence and personal growth.

The outreach successfully engaged 200 girls from Grades 8-12, providing them with essential packs and career guidance, particularly benefiting the grade 12 learners who are preparing for university. The initiative reflects DUT's commitment to community engagement and highlights the department's dedication to raising awareness about careers in the Film and Television Production Industry.

The day began with a warm welcome from Ms Rajeshree (Irene John), a Secretary from the Video Technology Department, and Mr Mike Hatton, a Lecturer from the Department. Both emphasised the purpose of the event and provided an overview of the Video Technology field. They encouraged the learners to approach the day with curiosity and eagerness to learn.

Mr Samuel Ntsanwisi, also a lecturer at the Video Technology Department, delivered an inspiring talk on overcoming challenges faced by young girls. His message centered on self-worth and the importance of understanding one's path in life.

The students were also given a detailed look into the film industry by Ms Nisha Naidoo and heard a personal account from DUT student, Ms Alondwe Cele, who shared her experiences as a university student. This segment aimed to offer real-world insights into pursuing a career in Video Technology.

Mr Chili, Principal of Gcinimfundo Secondary School, expressed heartfelt gratitude for DUT's visit. "This is the first time our school has been visited by a university like DUT. Being in a rural and remote area, we often feel overlooked. We deeply appreciate DUT's support and the vital information provided to our learners," he said. He particularly noted the value of the career guidance received, which he believes has broadened his learners' understanding of potential career paths.

One of the learners, Ms Noluthando Ngcobo shared her enthusiasm, "I'm excited and honored to be part of this session. Opportunities like this are rare for us, and having DUT come here has meant a lot."

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– MR CHILI

The event concluded with a comprehensive career guidance session for Grade 12 students, conducted by Mr. Zamani Mayeza from the Faculty of Health Sciences and Mr Mike Hatton. The learners were informed about career choices, DUT academic programmes, entry requirements, and academic success tips from Ms Phumzile Xulu of DUT's Community Engagement. A lively Q&A session allowed learners to engage further and clarify their doubts.

Second-year Video Technology student, Mr Wanga Majali, expressed his pride in participating, "It feels great to contribute to empowering young girls, especially during Women's Month."

Mr Ntsanwisi highlighted the day's success and the importance of girls' empowerment, by stating, "Youth development is crucial. Initiatives like this are essential as young girls face numerous challenges. I'm thrilled that this project took place."

The Video Technology Department lauded the success of the event, thanking all staff and students for their contributions and expressing their appreciation for the partnership with the Community Engagement. They look forward to making this outreach an annual initiative, continuing to support and empower young girls in the community.

PHUMEZA MSONGELWA

Pictured: DUT Team with the Principal Mr Chili at Gcinimfundo Secondary School.





Pictured: DUT's Ms Phumzile Xulu (front row, fourth from left) with the women of Inhlalo Yabesifazane.

DUT EMPOWERING WOMEN TRADERS THROUGH A SUCCESSFUL FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOP

The vibrant chant of 'VIVA MBOKODO VIVA!!' echoed through the Durban University of Technology (DUT) Hotel School as the Inhlalo Yabesifazane, an informal trader' enterprise, wrapped up Women's Month with an informative Financial Literacy Workshop hosted by DUT's Community Engagement on Friday, 30 August 2024.

Established in 2022, Inhlalo Yabesifazane is a pioneering company formed by women informal traders who have long been active in the marketplace. The organisation fosters collaboration among its members, empowering them to achieve collective business goals and enhance their trading practices.

The workshop's primary objective was to enhance the financial literacy of the participants, teaching them strategies to work cooperatively and maximise their profits. Additionally, it aimed to renew the partnership between DUT and Inhlalo

Yabesifazane, strengthening the bond between the university and the women-led enterprise.

Among the highlights of the workshop was the presence of Ms Gumede from the eThekweni Municipality Business Support Department. She praised the initiative of the women in forming a supportive community that not only uplifts each other socially but also economically. Ms Gumede encouraged the attendees to manage their resources wisely and save, emphasising the importance of leaving a lasting legacy for future generations.

"Do not look down on yourselves, what you are doing is brilliant. You are building a legacy that will benefit your children. Don't underestimate the value of your business."

Lihle Nyawo, representing Asiye eTafuleni, a non-profit organisation founded in 2008, shared the valuable services the organisation provides to informal traders. This includes affordable child care services designed to create a safer environment for young children accompanying their parents at work.

Ms Xolile Nzuza, a member of Inhlalo Yabesifazane, offered a detailed overview of the company's financial activities over the past year. She outlined how funds were allocated and expressed the company's ambition to embark on at least three new projects aimed at fostering growth: "We want to do bigger things this year, as you see us here, we here to renew our contract and put our minds and skills together, we would like to at least do about three projects this year that will bring growth to the us and the company," Nzuza stated.

Nzuza also expressed deep gratitude to DUT for organising the insightful workshop and hoped that the fruitful partnership would continue to thrive.

The workshop concluded with the presentation of appreciation gifts to the members and the signing of a renewed partnership contract between DUT and Inhlalo Yabesifazane, marking a promising new chapter in their collaborative journey.

PHUMEZA MSONGELWA

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– MS XOLILE NZUZA

SUCCESSFUL LITERACY WORKSHOP IN BERGVILLE ENHANCES LEARNER SKILLS AHEAD OF BOOK-A-THON

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) Community Engagement, supported by the DUT Library Unit, recently hosted a successful literacy workshop as part of the Bergville Schools Engagement Project. The two-day workshop was aimed at equipping primary school learners in Bergville with essential skills in reading, writing, and creativity, preparing them for the upcoming Book-A-Thon competition.

The workshop supported learners from Bambanani, Intumbane, Sbavana, and Vulamehlo Primary Schools in Grades 5, 6, and 7. It focused on key categories for the Book-A-Thon, including book reviewing, poetry writing, short story writing, and debating. The workshop provided targeted guidance to enhance learners' abilities in these areas, ensuring they are well-prepared for the competition.

Amahle Hlatshwayo from Bambanani Primary School shared her enthusiasm, saying, "Being part of this workshop will help me a lot because now I understand how to write a good book review." Thobile Cele from Sbavana Primary School expressed her confidence, stating, "The lesson on debate has really helped us as we did not really know the rules of debate, but now I am confident



that we will bring the trophy home."

Ms Nthatuwa Leeke from the DUT Writing Centre, a facilitator at the workshop, reflected on the experience, noting, "Participating in the creative training workshop was both enriching and inspiring. Being part of this programme was a privilege, and I look forward to future opportunities to contribute." She highlighted the workshop's success in fostering critical reading and writing skills, enhancing public speaking confidence, and nurturing creative writing talents.

The workshop was a resounding success, enriching learners with valuable knowledge and skills. The team will return to Bergville to select the final 10 learners from each school who will

“Participating in the creative training workshop was both enriching and inspiring. Being part of this programme was a privilege, and I look forward to future opportunities to contribute.”
– MS NTHATUWA LEEKE

represent their schools at the Book-A-Thon later this year.

PHUMEZA MSONGELWA



Pictured: Sbavana Primary school learners with facilitator Nomali Zondi.

DUT PARTICIPATES IN THE 44TH ANNUAL ESKOM EXPO FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS: ENSURING THE FUTURE OF STEM

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) proudly participated in the 44th Annual Eskom Expo for Young Scientists, held at the Emperors Palace Convention Centre. Celebrating its 44th anniversary, the Expo featured over 380 participants and welcomed 18 international guests, marking a significant event in the science and innovation landscape.

The Eskom Expo for Young Scientists is a science fair where learners present their own scientific investigations and projects. This exposition provides a platform for young minds to showcase their research and innovations. Each year, the top participants from 35 regions across South Africa advance to the prestigious Eskom Expo for Young Scientists International Science Fair (ISF). At the ISF, these talented students compete against the best young scientists from across the country and around the globe, further highlighting their exceptional skills and creativity in science.

DUT's team attended the Expo not only to showcase innovative projects but also presented an award sponsored by the DUT's Marketing Department under Corporate Affairs to a deserving young social scientist. Amongst those who showcased at the Eskom Expo was Dr Farai Dziike from the Technology Transfer and Innovation (TTI) who showcased an innovative solution to plastic waste and fly ash pollution.

"This innovation has the potential to engage communities, providing employment opportunities while fostering a greener future. We envision the significant reduction in plastic waste, empowering local youth in process and ultimately contributing to social upliftment and environmental health," he shared during the exhibition.

Kwanele Mazibuko, a student from the Faculty of Accounting and Informatics, addressed the issue of limited access to technology in underserved



Pictured: DUT's Ms Phumzile Xulu handing over the special award for best project in social sciences to Rilivhuwa Majie.

schools. She shared how her project can serve as an educational tool, stating, "My project aims to demonstrate how Raspberry Pi can be utilised to create resources that engage students in their learning development. It's a fantastic platform for fostering creativity and problem-solving."

Rilivhuwa Majie from Kutama Secondary School in the Vhembe Region won the DUT special award for the best social sciences project, earning a high-end laptop for her innovative project, the Super Glowing Book.

"In South Africa, the issue of load-shedding remains a concern," Rilivhuwa explained. "The Super Glowing Book is designed to assist learners in areas without access to electricity. The project aims to ensure safety and accessibility for all students, including those with visual impairments."

Reflecting on her achievement, Rilivhuwa stated, "This recognition encourages me to keep improving my project. When I first started, I lacked confidence, but now I feel empowered and am even considering further development." She also offered advice to her peers, saying, "Never

give up and have confidence in your ideas. Pursue them relentlessly until you achieve your goals."

Another highlight of the event was an inspiring speech by Nikita Chandru, a past winner of the Eskom Expo International Science Fair. Having won R75,000 and represented South Africa at the ISEF in Los Angeles, Nikita emphasised the transformative power of participating in science fairs. She recounted her journey, filled with challenges and achievements, motivating young scientists to embrace their experiences. "Success is not a destination; success is a journey," she stated, encouraging them to persevere and grow through their endeavours.

The Eskom Expo for Young Scientists serves as a vital platform for nurturing the talents of young innovators, equipping them with the skills and confidence to address real-world challenges. DUT's involvement underscores its commitment to promoting education and innovation within the community, supporting the next generation of problem solvers and leaders.

Eskom Development Foundation Acting CEO, Mologadi Motshale, expressed her gratitude and congratulated the learners for their innovative efforts. "Eskom extends its congratulations to the young researchers who are reshaping the future of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and innovation (STEMI), fostering a more diverse and inclusive scientific community that contributes to the betterment of South Africa," she stated.

The Eskom Expo has consistently aimed to nurture youth interest and passion for the sciences through thoughtful support, enabling bright young scientists to pursue their ambitions at the tertiary level. This is Eskom's contribution to building a pool of future talent that will thrive across various fields and industries. The dedication and passion demonstrated by these participating young scientists are paving the way for a brighter, more innovative future for all involved in this initiative.

ANDISWA NGUBANE

"This innovation has the potential to engage communities, providing employment opportunities while fostering a greener future. We envision the significant reduction in plastic waste, empowering local youth in process and ultimately contributing to social upliftment and environmental health."
– DR FARAI DZIIKE



Pictured: Members of Maswamahle Youth Development NPC with students from Lakehaven Secondary School.

MASWAMAHLE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT NPC BRIDGING EDUCATIONAL GAPS

In the heart of Ulundi, a beacon of hope shines brightly for underprivileged youth seeking to transcend barriers to higher education. Maswamahle Youth Development NPC, founded in 2023 by Sphelele Dlamini, a Durban University of Technology (DUT) second-year Marketing and Retail student from the Faculty of Management Sciences, has emerged as a pivotal non-profit organisation dedicated to nurturing the academic and professional aspirations of high school students.

Maswamahle Youth Development NPC's mission is to empower youth with the essential tools and knowledge needed to succeed academically and professionally. Recognising the disparities in educational resources between urban and rural areas, Sphelele Dlamini initiated the programme to fill this critical gap. Noticing a profound lack of guidance and support for students in the rural areas Dlamini took it upon himself to save the many talented young minds that were slipping through the cracks due to limited access to educational opportunities.

Since its inception, Maswamahle Youth Development NPC has undertaken various initiatives to uplift the next generation through the organisation's University Applications Assistance initiative, the organisation provides hands-on support to high school learners navigating the complexities of university applications, ensuring they are well-equipped for their academic journey.

The organisation also offers career guidance and motivational talks through personalised counselling and motivational sessions, learners are empowered to explore career paths and develop crucial skills for the workforce.

Using Community Engagement as a bid to foster community spirit and youth engagement, Maswamahle Youth Development NPC organised a sports tournament in Ceza, aimed at instilling teamwork and leadership among the youth.

In addition to its core educational initiatives, Maswamahle Youth Development NPC is actively engaged in other impactful programmes. The Careshare Youth Charity Programme stands out as a significant undertaking, dedicated to supporting disadvantaged individuals by providing clothing donations to orphanage homes. Moreover, the organisation is committed to aligning its activities with DUT's ENVISION2030 strategy and its goal to contribute to changing the lives and the livelihoods of the society. Efforts to secure sponsors play a crucial role in expanding their reach and ensuring sustained support for their initiatives aimed at fostering positive societal change.

The impact of Maswamahle Youth Development NPC has not gone unnoticed. The organisation has garnered acclaim for its transformative efforts by gaining recognition for their great work by various departments inside the institution. They have been nominated for the DUT's Engagement Showcasing Award 2024

aligned with DUT's ENVISION2030, achieving a top 10 position in awards nominations. Successfully completed numerous high school visits, assisting many students with their university applications and some are now members of the organisation and studying in universities and last but not least hosting community events like sports tournaments to engage the youth.

Looking forward, Maswamahle Youth Development NPC continues to expand its reach and impact, the organisation remains steadfast in its commitment to creating a supportive environment where every youth can flourish. "Our goal is to ensure that every young person, regardless of their background, has access to the resources they need to succeed," emphasised Dlamini.

The journey ahead for Maswamahle Youth Development NPC is filled with promise and possibility. The organisation welcomes support from the community, sponsors, and other organisations to further enhance its programs and initiatives. Contributions in resources or funding are pivotal in sustaining their mission of empowering youth and fostering a brighter future.

PHUMEZA MSONGELWA



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 community engagement projects that have been initiated by staff and students as part of service learning, community-based research, community outreach or volunteering for positive societal 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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