



## TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

### UNIVERSITIES

- Durban University of Technology
- University of the Free State
- University of Johannesburg **PG 8**
- University of Pretoria
- University of Stellenbosch
- University of South Africa (UNISA)
- University of the Western Cape (UWC)
- University of Witwatersrand
- Cape Peninsula University of Technology **PG 123**
- Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
- University of Limpopo
- University of Venda
- University of Zululand (Unizulu)

### GRADUATE SCHOOLS

- IMM Graduate School of Marketing
- Milpark Business School (Pty) Ltd
- Regent Business School
- UNISA Graduate School of Business Leadership (SBL)
- University of Stellenbosch Business School (USB)
- University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business
- USB Executive Development Limited
- Wits Business School

### COLLEGES

- AAA School of Advertising
- Boston City Campus
- CIDA City Campus
- College Of Cape Town
- Henley Management College
- Intec College South Africa
- International Colleges Group (Pty) Ltd (ICG)
- Vega School **PG 4**



*“Output goals focus on minimum quality standards, by increasing the number of learners in various grades.”*

# Young woman in a man's world

**Lucentha Naidu** is a young woman

working in a man's world, and she's loving it. Not only is she involved in mechanical engineering, but she helps select and train local manufacturers who provide parts for the huge diesel-electric locomotives that GE South Africa Technologies (Pty) Ltd (GESAT) is building in South Africa together with its licensed partner Transnet Engineering (TE).

"The first time I saw a locomotive up close was when I came to GESAT for a job interview. Now I know the locomotives, the parts that go into them and where and how those parts are made. I was involved all the way from the initial locomotive platform, to final assembly and testing of locomotives. It's been a fascinating experience," she says. Lucentha, 27, has a National Diploma in Mechanical Engineering from the Durban University of Technology, and is about to complete her BTech through the University of South Africa (Unisa) this year which will make her a qualified mechanical engineer.

## Introduction to GESAT

She started at GESAT in 2011 as the company's first Quality Control Engineer and the first female to do that job in the locomotive assembly plant in Koedoespoort, Pretoria.

GESAT does not compromise on quality, and her job was to ensure that the locomotives meet the required standards. This included checking that there is a perfect fit between locally manufactured parts and imported components. From quality control, Lucentha has progressed to Supplier Development Engineer. She forms part of the team responsible for developing the large number of local suppliers that supply to GESAT.

The locomotive contract has resulted in a significant investment in developing local skills. The locomotives are built by TE through a licence agreement with GESAT, which is a joint venture between GE Transportation and the Mine Workers Investment Company. GESAT plans to continue to invest in supplier development for small to medium businesses in South Africa. This is where Lucentha comes in as a Supplier Development Engineer.



*"In the beginning they looked at me as an assistant, but they have learned that when I tell them what they have to do to meet a particular standard, I mean it.."*

Not only will she help them once they have been selected, she is often part of the supplier recruitment process, visiting plants and workshops to identify potential suppliers of parts for the GE contract.

"I know our parts and our products, and that has helped me to identify suppliers. Once a supplier has been identified, I go into the plant to help them streamline their processes and make parts the way that GE makes them. I can see whether they have the capability to manufacture a particular part, and whether they need assistance, training and technical advice, which we will provide."

The suppliers she deals with are mostly men, and that has sometimes been challenging.

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## GE Women's Network

As a woman at GESAT, Lucentha is not alone. She is automatically part of the GE Women's Network, which aims to help women employees around the world feel connected and part of a broader GE community. She has found this interaction stimulating and beneficial.

"There are monthly telecoms where we get tips from health to technology, to whatever else is current. The health tips are good - they are from medical experts - and the technology tips from professional women help us to develop skills and advance in the company."

She is happiest getting out of the office and visiting suppliers and manufacturing workshops. "I love putting on my boots, safety helmet and gloves, and going into the plants where our parts are made."

## Career choice

Lucentha went into engineering because her brother, whom she respects, is a Mechanical Engineer and she wanted to prove she could be his equal in this previously male-dominated field. She's ended up in a job that she loves, where she is constantly learning and where she is helping to develop South Africa's manufacturing skills.