

Editorial

The 2023 youth month was celebrated under the theme “Accelerating youth economic emancipation for a sustainable future”. This is quite a loaded statement as it triggers questions about youth unemployment, creating viable economic opportunities for their emancipation and the means to address these issues. With the youth unemployment rate standing at 62.1% for Quarter 1 of 2023, the need for critical intervention has become immanent, lest limited job opportunity and financial independence should remain an unfortunate reality for the majority of South African youth. The role played by the Post-School Education and Training (PSET) Sector in terms of increased accessibility to educational opportunities cannot be overemphasised as this is a sure-fire way to address the challenges of youth unemployment in our country.

Government has made significant strides in expanding access to tertiary education through initiatives such as the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), but more needs to be done to remove the barriers that still exist, including financial constraints, inadequate information about available opportunities and the mismatch between skills required in the job market and the training offered at PSET institutions.

By offering a relevant, responsive Programme Qualifications Mix (PQM), students are not only prepared for the demands and challenges of the job market, but are also able to keep up with the latest technological advancements and trends in their respective fields. This, in turn, enhances their employability and increases their chances of securing fulfilling and well-paying jobs. To this end, ORBIT College is focused on keeping the curriculum relevant and responsive. This issue of the Odyssey will provide you with a glimpse of the innovative and multi-dimensional initiatives currently undertaken by the College to ensure that our students develop into a well-trained and skilled workforce that is crucial for innovation, productivity and competitiveness in any industry. The Centre for Entrepreneurship & Rapid Incubator (CfEri) is also doing tremendous work to draw more young people into the economy by hosting a number of youth entrepreneurship development and empowerment initiatives in support of government’s call to economically emancipate our youth.

As we continue to grapple with the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become abundantly clear that embracing change in education and training is crucial. The pandemic has accelerated the shift towards remote and online learning, highlighting the need for flexibility and innovative approaches to education and training. We need to adapt and embrace these changes and facilitate digital literacy to ensure that young people can participate in the new digital economy. ORBIT College has shown its commitment to maximise the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by planning to expand the AI programme currently offered at Brits Campus to include coding and robotics at more campuses in the near future.

In conclusion, we need to work together to create an enabling environment that supports economic emancipation, increases accessibility to PSET opportunities and encourages innovation in education and training. Together, we can empower the youth of South Africa to create a brighter future for themselves and for our country as a whole. And where better to draw our inspiration from than from the excellent performance and achievements of our very own ORBIT FC!

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TVET College Month is celebrated in August. Join us as we support this DHET-initiative under the theme: “Modernizing the TVET Sector by unlocking skills development to tackle & accelerate youth empowerment & entrepreneurship”

ORBIT CELEBRATES OUR MOSWENKO BOYS - ORBIT COLLEGE

FC! By Mariette Viljoen – Corporate Communications Manager



ORBIT FC team and officials celebrate their runner-up position in the 2022/2023 Motsepe Foundation Championship, which secured their inclusion in the First National Division

More than thirteen years of continuous dedication, hard work, a steadfast winning attitude and unwavering motivation saw the ORBIT College Football Club or our Mswenko Boys – as they are popularly known – finally rise to the occasion during the 2022/2023 season to become the only soccer team from the TVET College Sector to be included in the First National Division.

ORBIT College Football Club was established in 2009 when former College Principal, Ms Maryna Marais and Deputy Principal Academic, Mr Tumisang Mosito presented a proposal to the College Council to approve the establishment of a College soccer team to participate in the Inter-Provincial College Competition. The proposal was approved, marking a milestone in the history of ORBIT College sport and the start of an incredibly successful journey for the ORBIT FC. The ORBIT College Soccer team participated in the Inter-College Provincial Games from 2009 until 2012. The team performed very well with almost 90% of the team’s players being selected for the Provincial team during the competition. In 2013 ORBIT College FC bought the status from Rustenburg Sea Eagle FC and started playing in the ABC Motsepe League. Since its inception, the team managed to accumulate a number of extraordinary achievements. During the 2015/2016 season the team won the ABC Motsepe NW League and qualified for the national play offs in Bloemfontein, but they did not manage to make it to the finals.

The dedication, unwavering perseverance and consistent positive attitude of the ORBIT FC paid off when the team walked away as the proud winners of the ABC Motsepe NW League in the 2021/2022 season. By producing top quality soccer, ORBIT FC managed to produce a number of players over the years who were absorbed by Professional Soccer Teams which include Orlando Pirates, University of Pretoria (Tuks), Free State Stars and Maritzburg United, amongst others.

During the 2022/2023 season the team made sure that they are noticed by playing the Under 21 division of the Pirates Cup and finishing as runners-up in what is commonly known as an extremely tough competition. The team continued their top performance spree and claimed victory in the ABC Motsepe NW League.

It was this formidable performance record of the ORBIT FC that finally saw them forming part of the play-offs tournament for the Motsepe Foundation Championship (NFD). Preparations to participate in the play-offs came with its own challenges as the play-offs took place during the Business Studies examinations and the players had to prioritise their studies without compromising practice sessions. With resolute support from the College, Rustenburg Municipality and the NW Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation Department, the team’s preparations, practice camp and performance in the play-off tournament in Pietermaritzburg finally paid off. The team had to face off against Upington City in the finals on 11 June. After a nail biting game and a score of 3-1, ORBIT FC walked away as runners up – a position that firmly promoted them into the NFD. What makes this achievement even more remarkable is the fact that the ORBIT FC is the only soccer team from the TVET College Sector to be absorbed in the National First Division.

Upon their return from the play-offs, College Principal, Mr Dika Mokoena, expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the team for remaining loyal to the ORBIT brand and vowed the continued support of the College to the team.

Extra-curricular manager of the College, Mr Stanley Kekana pointed out that apart from the team remaining focused to remain at their best performance, player development remains the corner stone. ORBIT FC aspires to be an outstanding Educational Institution-based Football Club that provides a high-quality experience for all soccer playing students where every soccer player is coached using the principles of “Positive Coaching”. Key to this approach is exposure and talent identification from the most rural areas of the North West Province with the aim of developing the full potential of each individual player so that they may ultimately outperform themselves and become the best they can possibly be.

The Bigger Picture

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

By Mr Dika Mokoena - ORBIT TVET College Principal



Mr Dika Mokoena - ORBIT TVET College Principal

Dedication and diligence is a formidable combination. It is this unique composite that defines the men and women who continue to make the College shine amongst other institutions. The remarkable academic performance of our students is the product of dedicated, hard-working individuals who wish to see Africa being a better home tomorrow. Add to this the tireless efforts of devoted men and women who unselfishly burn the last atom of their energy to ensure that systems, controls and management are effective and operational and you have an unbeatable team sure to succeed. To this end, please join me in celebrating the second year of receiving an unqualified audit opinion by the Auditor General of South Africa. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all staff of the College who have played their part thus far during 2023 to make the College soar to new heights.

However, we will not do justice to our celebrations by leaving out the Mswenko Boys. Heartfelt congratulations to our ORBIT FC soccer team for your outstanding performance and achievement. The TVET College Sector in its entirety takes pride in you because you are the only soccer team in the TVET Sector which plays at National First Division. You are indeed a beacon of hope to the citizens of the North West Province. This achievement is sure to bring about an exciting and welcome change within the TVET College soccer landscape and does justice to the well-known adage that there is nothing as constant as change. I cannot agree more with our ancestors who coined this statement. Today is absolutely not the same as yesterday, nor will tomorrow be the same as today. Every day presents new opportunities and challenges alike, but it is the manner in which we respond as individuals that makes a difference.

The dictionary meaning of "illiteracy" is a person who cannot read and write at all. However, before you count yourself out as being illiterate, note the dictionary meaning of "functional literacy" This is a person who may have basic reading, writing and numerical skills but who cannot apply them to accomplish tasks that are necessary to make informed choices. Progress in International Reading Literacy study (PIRLS) reported that South Africa is ranked last out of 50 (fifty) countries which participated in the study. The study found that 78% of SA pupils could not read with comprehension. Yet, this situation is not unique to South Africa. It cuts deeply across Africa.

Cognitive challenges such as those captured in the PIRLS report and other UNESCO reports, are addressed by increased accessibility to educational opportunity. In this regard, the Minister of Higher Education and Training Science and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande, introduced the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), bursary. The purpose of the NSFAS bursary is to assist students with funding for their studies while including allowances for social needs. All students at public TVET Colleges (ORBIT College included), who qualify for an NSFAS bursary, have access to learning material at no cost. The financial burden is integrated into the NSFAS. Therefore, I wish to encourage students to seize this policy position and to use it as a leverage to pull our society out of poverty and malady related to poor socio-economic conditions.

The aftermath of COVID - 19 Pandemic had compelled policy makers worldwide, to rethink how education can be accessed by the citizens of the global village. Some scholars advocate the use of technology to mitigate risks imposed by COVID and any unforeseen future pandemic(s), while other scholars are of the opinion that an educator cannot be replaced or augmented. The technology-inclined scholars are very loud about the usage of computers as a tool to access teaching and learning. These scholars further argue that e-books are much better than the traditional hard copy due to cost savings, or so they claim. As much as there are lessons learnt from COVID, the question that remains is whether Africa should be quick to switch over to computer-based teaching and learning with data usage no longer being a secondary, but primary need instead.

Computer-based teaching and learning would require a huge percentage of the education budget to be allocated to the procurement of electronic gadgets, rather than education itself. To access an e-book will require the user of the computer to have a password which strictly limits access to the possessor of the password, unlike a hard copy which is available to any person who comes across it. It goes without saying, that by embracing the computer-based teaching and learning approach, hard copy learning material will soon be a thing of the past. In addition, households will be compelled to allocate a portion of an already stretched budget to buying of data to enable their children to access e-libraries and other digital academic resources.

In contrast to this, the general availability of the hard copy assists to improve illiteracy levels in our communities in the long run. Even if this hard copy can be found at a refuse dump side, the waste product recycler will touch it and might even find it valuable at the time. According to Maslow's hierarchy of needs, physiological needs, which includes food, water and shelter, are prioritised over any other need. Hence, the question which comes to mind is whether Africa can afford to buy data and Microsoft licenses when its citizens are hungry. If the answer is YES, consider I never WRIT.

26TH HRDC MEETING CONVENED AT ORBIT COLLEGE, MANKWE CAMPUS

By Ms Tshogofatso Rapoo-Maloyi- E-Media & Communications Administrator



Delegates of the HRDC Secretariat attending the HRDPCF at Mankwe Campus to report on progress registered with the implementation of the HRD strategy

Mankwe Campus had the pleasure of hosting the Human Resource Development Provincial Coordination Forum (HRDPCF) meeting on 08 March 2023. The meeting was attended by delegates who form part of the HRDC Secretariat. The forum provides provinces with a platform to report progress updates on implementation of the HRD Strategy. It also encourages all nine provinces to form their own HRD Provincial Councils in the Premiers' offices to tackle their unique HRD challenges.

The agenda of the meeting included presentations by representatives from the North West Province, highlights on the implementation of the HRD Strategy, the process of developing the Provincial Master Skills Plan and functions (PSDF) and the Benchmarking Study of the HRD Councils. Ms Blondie Chabani from the HRDC Secretariat also presented the Provincial Reporting Analysis and Monitoring and Evaluation Report. The meeting was chaired by Head of HRDC Secretariat, Mr Maliviwe Lumka. Before the commencement of the meeting, delegates were treated to a tour of the workshops at the campus and the Centre for Entrepreneurship Rapid Incubator to experience the excellent work done by students.

In 2018, ORBIT College, Rustenburg Campus also hosted the meeting, which was attended by former Deputy President, Honourable Mabuza and other esteemed guests at the time.

The Bigger Picture

CLAMPING DOWN ON BOGUS PRIVATE COLLEGES

By Nashveer Nemesar - Department of Higher Education and Training



Executive Mayor of Rustenburg Municipality, Cllr Shiela Mabale-Huma (second from left) interacted with students and community at the public awareness campaign held at Midtown Mall (near the taxi rank). She also handed out information on how to help prospective students verify if a college is fraudulent or legitimate

In February 2023, the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) embarked on a public awareness campaign on bogus private colleges in Rustenburg, North West Province. This exercise was aimed at enforcing compliance with the relevant legislations in the private college sector.

The DHET conducted impromptu inspections at fourteen (14) private colleges in partnership with the Rustenburg Municipality led by the Executive Mayor, Cllr Shiela Mabale-Huma, including the local law enforcement authorities.

Departmental stakeholders such as the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), Council on Higher Education (CHE), Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) and UMALUSI also played a very instrumental role in the inspection blitz at private colleges.

The public awareness campaign was also taken to major public venues in Rustenburg, such as Mid Town Mall (near the taxi ranks), with the aim to expose fraudulent or bogus private higher institutions that are rampant, particularly, this time of the year, as they rob unsuspecting students and parents of their hard earned cash.

Dr Shaheeda Essack, Director: Registration of Private Higher Education Institutions, deemed the inspection blitz an unquestionable success. "Thus far we have discovered that most colleges are fully compliant in Rustenburg. Some were issued fines and some were found wanting in areas of the fire

and electricity regulations not being met. Another challenge was that some colleges were not fully compliant in the sense that apart from offering accredited programmes, they also offered a few unaccredited programmes, especially the N1-N3, or they begin to offer programmes in anticipation of receiving accreditation whereby they have already started the process of registration. The franchising of colleges is also a huge problem. Overall, it has been a positive experience", said Dr Essack. She further said, "This is a country-wide campaign conducted throughout the year and the Department will be visiting all provinces during the year. Thus far, we have made great strides in Pretoria, Johannesburg and Rustenburg and will continue to keep the momentum going".

Another cause for concern is that many of these illegitimate private colleges are operating only with online studies and lure the students into enrolling by way of showing very creative looking websites. The websites look very exciting and inviting that students find it difficult to discriminate between the legitimate and the illegitimate colleges. Dr Essack advised prospective students to first check with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) if colleges are legitimate or not by contacting the DHET Toll Free number on 0800 8722 22 or visit the Department's website at www.dhet.gov.za to make the right choice".

The Executive Mayor of Rustenburg, Cllr Shiela Mabale-Huma, was relentless in her pursuit of bringing the illegitimate private colleges to book during the inspection blitz and made it known that this special operation will go all out to enforce the law. She was extremely vocal in her message to the community by stating that, "We are encouraging the parents of prospective students to support this initiative because it is for their benefit".

"Remember, some of you are registering a child with your last money and the next moment when he/she has to graduate or has to look for a job, the last thing you wish for is to learn at that moment that the institution in which your child spent so much time and money is not recognized. This will be a major loss to any family and we do not wish for any family to go through such an experience, hence the importance of this campaign", said the Executive Mayor.

Cllr Shiela Mabale-Huma applauded the willingness and effort by different government departments to work together on the bogus colleges awareness campaign. The mayor said we all have a constitutional mandate to ensure that we take to the community of Rustenburg and society at large what is expected of us as local government, provincial government and national government".

The Executive Mayor acknowledged and thanked the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation for the great work in conducting the inspection blitz campaign on bogus private colleges.

MONITORING VISITS BY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION (DPME) AIMED AT ENSURING MTSF IMPLEMENTATION AT HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEIs)

By Mariette Viljoen - Corporate Communications Manager



On Friday, 27 January 2023 Mankwe Campus was visited by a delegation from the DHET Regional Office, who conducted a monitoring visit to campuses in the North West Province. Pictured here (f.l.t.r) are Mr Jan Manana from Gert Sibande TVET College; Mr Richard Mediroe from DHET; Mr Monnapule Saleng, Orlando Pirates player and Ms Mercy Sechele from NW MP Department

Part of the mandate of the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) is to monitor the implementation of the National Development Plan 2030 through the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) and to explore the good work done by TVET colleges, including challenges which need intervention to ensure smooth skills development and training which can contribute to job creation, particularly for the youth.

As part of the oversight work that the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) carries out, DPME embarks on site monitoring visits of various frontline institutions. The primary purpose of the visit is to monitor the progress made by Institutions of Higher Education in meeting the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) 2019-2024 Outcomes towards an improved economic participation and social development. In addition, the visits are meant to identify areas that require unblocking in order to ensure the MTSF outcomes are met. In 2022, DPME visited a total of 31 TVET colleges and 103 campuses as part of this exercise. The DPME team visited TVET Colleges in the North West Province, Gauteng and Limpopo from 27-31 March 2023.

ORBIT College Mankwe Campus was visited 27 January 2023 by a delegation from the DHET Regional Office, led by Regional Manager, Dr Nick Balkrishen. College principal, Mr Dika Mokoena, Deputy Principal Academic, Mr Tumisoang Mosito and Vocational Programmes Manager, Mr Phineas Nkai formed part of the ORBIT College delegation who received the DHET delegation together with Acting Campus Manager, Ms Welheminah Molapi. The focus of the visit was primarily on student induction due to the visit falling within the timeframe of January registration at the campus.

The MTSF is focused on four outcomes, namely expanded access to Post School Education and Training (PSET) opportunities, improved success and efficiency of the PSET systems, improved quality of PSET provisioning and ensuring a responsive PSET system. Focus areas of the monitoring visits, underpinning the different outcomes, range from infrastructure, workshops, Centres of excellence (CoE), Centers of Specialisation (CoS), Skills Centres,

NSFAS administration matters, completions and addressing of certification backlogs, implementation and provision of digital learning, connectivity and electronic devices, establishment of industry partnerships, lecturer/industry exchange programmes.

HR Matters

FROM THE HR MANAGER'S DESK

By Mr Gilbert Mafojane - Assistant Director Human Resource Administration & Development



Mr Gilbert Mafojane - HR Manager

The first semester of 2023 comprised yet another performance cycle complete with its own celebrations, sorrows and glitches. The continuous dedication and unity in the HR unit cannot be over-emphasised. A lot was achieved, including labour peace owed to the team's commitment across all HR areas. In an effort to ensure that deadlines are met and that the quality of submissions is improved, the HR unit embarked on yet another round of road shows to capacitate College staff members on PMDS matters, leave administration and grievance procedures.

The unit was hard-hit by the untimely transfer and departure of four dedicated colleagues. Ms N Morake was transferred to Taletso TVET College, Mr S Nqayi joined Maluti TVET College and both Mr P Rangongo and Mr T Lesimola were transferred to DHET Head Office. To ensure that operations do not collapse, we managed to apportion their roles to the remaining team members who carried them out excellently. As if the departure of the HR colleagues was not enough, Ms V Mabula, DPCS secretary who has been very resourceful and of great assistance in HR matters such as drafting Employment Equity (EE) reports, PPN CIC, Wellness Committee, recruitment and selection processes, left the College for a promotional post at Capricorn TVET College.

To address the gaps emanating from the departure of the HR colleagues, the PPN principles were followed. Ms I Kenosi from Brits Campus, Ms S Mabena from Rustenburg Campus and Ms M Zwane from Mankwe Campus all met the criteria to be matched at Central Office. They all accepted the matching and placement and subsequently joined the Corporate Services team. Processes to fill the posts for Labour Relations and Human Resource Development Practitioner are still underway.

The departed Colleagues will be dearly missed for their dedication, commitment and contributions they made in taking the College forward, but the unit is looking forward to working with the newly placed colleagues and trust that their presence will result in new initiatives and innovations which will assist HR and Corporate Services to excel further. The College also acknowledges the departure of a number of other employees during the first six months of 2023, due to promotions, resignations and retirement. We would like to wish all of them well with their future endeavours.

Bereavements



Ms Christina Morabe



Mr Thabo Mosebo

Our heartfelt and sincerest condolences are directed to the Mosebo family on the untimely passing on of their beloved Mr Thabo Mosebo who has been an English lecturer at Mankwe Campus since 2009. Mr Mosebo served the College with dignity, pride, commitment and honesty. The College also suffered the loss of Ms Christina Morabe, cleaner at Mankwe Campus following a protracted illness. She will be sorely missed.

The late Mr Mosebo and Ms Morabe will forever be in our hearts. May their souls rest in eternal peace. We acknowledge that there are colleagues who lost their beloved family members during this period. We express our sincere condolences and would like to urge them to look nowhere but unto the Lord during these challenging times.

New appointments

NO.	SURNAME & INITIALS	NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT	APPOINTMENT DATE	DESIGNATION	SITE/CAMPUS
1	Marumo ST	Permanent	05/06/2023	IT Technician	Brits
2	Sebaetse M	Permanent	01/05/2023	DP Finance	Central Office
3	Ngobeni RE	Permanent	01/05/2023	Technical Manager	Central Office
4	Lebabo M	Permanent	07/03/2023	Lecturer Office Admin	Mankwe
5	Sibanyoni TM	Permanent	01/07/2023	Lecturer Tourism	Mankwe
6	Kubayi M	Permanent	13/07/2023	Lecturer R191 BS	Rustenburg
7	Mahlangu GN	Permanent	21/02/2023	Snr Lecturer (Maths & Maths Lit)	Rustenburg
8	Ntuli FL	Permanent	14/03/2023	Snr Lecturer (R191 Eng)	Rustenburg
9	Makaula Y	Permanent	05/06/2023	Lecturer Life Orientation	Rustenburg
10	Maphari W	Fixed term	13/06/2023	Lecturer – Engineering Studies	Brits
11	Masilela JM	Fixed term	13/06/2023	Lecturer – Engineering Studies	Brits
12	Mathabathe PP	Fixed term	13/06/2023	Lecturer – Engineering Studies	Mankwe
13	Mokhachane YD	Fixed term	17/07/2023	Lecturer - Fundamentals	Mankwe
14	Mtiyane PD	Fixed term	09/05/2023	Lecturer – Engineering Studies	Rustenburg
15	Tlatla T	Fixed term	06/06/2023	Lecturer - Engineering	Rustenburg

Congratulations to all the newly appointed staff members. We trust that their appointments will add value to the academic and administrative performance of the College.

Human Resource Development



Pictured above are a number of the College colleagues who graduated on 11 April 2023 with TUT

Congratulations to the twenty staff members who successfully completed their Advanced Diploma in Technical and Vocational Teaching with Tshwane University of Technology. We are also proud of all other colleagues who graduated during this period in review.

The college stands to gain from the knowleged you have aquired in your recently obtained qualifications, you are an inspiration to students and also your colleagues who are also on their schooling journey.

WELL DONE!!

Staff Training

The College staff training plan saw four employees trained in face-to-face digital skills for LLS facilitators and seventeen Management Board members being trained on Change Management. All College support staff were trained on PMDS.

Staff Bursaries

During the first semester of 2023 the HRD unit received seventeen (17) support and thirty-six (36) academic staff bursary applications. With R750 000 secured from MQA for 2023, ten (10) lecturers were funded to study towards a formal professional qualification as per their (MQA) terms and conditions for the grant. MQA further continued to fund all twenty lecturers, funded in 2022, to pursue their studies further. Fourteen lecturers took advantage of the opportunity by registering for an Honours qualification with TUT. The six remaining lecturers will still be funded next year, should they choose to register.

The College forwarded a request to be permitted to use the R200 000.00 grant received from ETDP SETA to fund staff bursaries. The grant was initially made available to develop support staff in Supervisory Development and Lecturers in Assessor and Moderator training. The request was approved and the funds were distributed amongst sixteen applications (each receiving 50%) which had been received at that point in time. The remaining 50% for each of the staff members were funded by the College.

PMDS

The College managed to successfully complete the moderation of 2022-23 PMDS midterm review assessments in January 2023. At present the 2022/2023 annual assessments are being moderated.

As we embark on the second semester of 2023, let us take hands to make our College prosper even further. The ORBIT College team is indeed a formidable one. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all colleagues the very best with their professional and personal endeavours. Continue to move forward, even amid challenges and obstacles in your way because the only guarantee for failure is to stop trying!

Workshops

A number of regional workshops were hosted by ORBIT College since the start of the year. On 22-23 February the College hosted the region for the Social Inclusion Gender Equality and Harassment in the Workplace workshop that was conducted in the Music Auditorium at Rustenburg Campus.



Ms Sesi Mahlobogoane - Director Social Inclusion, presenting to ORBIT College attendees at the DHET Social Inclusion and Harassment in the Workplace workshop

The College was also host to the North West Mpumalanga Regional Labour Relations Forum meeting and Strike Management workshop on 28 June 2023. ORBIT College further hosted the Head Office, Northern Cape CET and Western Cape CET for the Improved Qualifications workshop and working session from 10 to 12 July 2023



Pictured above f.l.t.r. are Mr M Kwinda (Senior Administration Officer - Human Resource Administration), Ms Nadia Van Wyk (Senior Administration Officer - Human Resource Administration), Ms Cebiso Phapiso (Administration Officer - Human Resource Administration), Lindiwe Kate Mkhaphi (Deputy Principal Corporate Services - Western Cape CET) Mr Gilbert Monwabise Mafojane (ORBIT TVET College - Assistant Director Human Resource Administration & Development) and Ms Sonto Letebele (Directorate: Human Resource Management and Administration) who all attended the Improved Qualifications workshop from 10-12 July.



A number of delegates from Mpumalanga and North West Provinces attended the Regional Labour Relations Forum. Front row from the left: Ms Promise Pheta (Labour Relations Officer - DHET), Mr Johannes Kgomo (Labour Relations Officer - DHET), Mr Tshepo Serai (Deputy Principal Corporate Services - North West CET), Mr Simon Sello Mophaki (Labour Relations Officer - Taletso TVET College), Ms Dimakatso Titi (Senior Labour Relations Officer - Enhlanzeni TVET College), Mr Gilbert Monwabise Mafojane (ORBIT TVET College - Assistant Director Human Resource Administration & Development) and Ms Nosizwe Mkhabela (Labour Relations Intern - Enhlanzeni TVET College). Back row: Mr Lucas Mohlamonyane (Deputy Principal Corporate Services - Mpumalanga -

PPN UPDATE

By Mr MS Matijane, Deputy Principal Corporate Services



Mr Solomon Matijane - Deputy Principal: Corporate Services

Since its inception, the Post Provisioning Norms College Implementation Committee (PPN CIC) has advanced greatly with implementing the PPN project. The Committee has since, confirmed its choice of the Deputy Principal Innovation (DPI)-based organisational structure to the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). This means that the College will soon be having a fourth Deputy Principal with a responsibility for new business development and innovation. Secondly, the CIC has managed to match and place the majority of employees on the new organisational structure. The list of unmatched employees was brought to a bare minimum and where disputes arose, these were addressed within the ambit of the PPN Procedure Manual. The Committee has also migrated all qualifying College Council paid employees to Persal.

Simultaneous to the latter process was the identification of critical posts that still need to be filled. Some of these posts were recently advertised while the remaining ones will be advertised before the end of July. The whole project will be completed before the end of the 2023/2024 financial year with job descriptions being streamlined, job titles being changed where applicable and reporting lines being reconfigured.

The implementation of the PPN project has placed the CIC under a lot of pressure and required long working hours due to the magnitude thereof. However, we are looking forward to the new wave of change awaiting us a College and are committed to further engagements with staff to ensure that no one is left behind. I wish to extend my gratitude and appreciation to all members of the CIC for their commitment and unwavering efforts towards the successful completion of this enormous task.



GEPF Pension Case Management facilitator, Ms Lesna Kisten (Back row, center) with DHET, ORBIT, Taletso and Vuselela TVET Colleges' officials attending the Pension Case Management that was scheduled for 20-23 June 2023 at Vuselela ICT Centre

Academic Matters

2023 SO FAR By Mr Phinias Nkau – Vocational Programmes Manager



Mr Phinias Nkau - Vocational Programmes Manager

We are halfway through 2023 and dedicated efforts continue to ensure that the academic year is a successful one and that all academic goals and objectives are met. At this time of the year, an academic mid-year review is held to determine the performance trajectory of the college in relation to set targets, with thoughtful intentions of perpetual improvement. Furthermore, it is at this time of the year that planning for the new academic year (2024) commences to ensure that projected enrolments are determined on time and that planning for needed resources is also in place. Critical to 2024 planning and preparation is the direction the college wishes to take with regards to its Programme Qualification Mix (PQM).

College Programme Qualification Mix

The PQM of a college needs to be relevant and responsive. It must have a healthy relationship with the economic environment of the country. When the economy of our country demands certain skills and abilities, the college must be producing students that have the required skills in demand as an output. In this way, students from the college will be able to seamlessly assimilate into the country's labour market, or be able to create their own employment by pursuing entrepreneurship. The college must discuss its PQM, following a study of the Critical and Scarce Skills Annual Report from the DHET. Central to PQM discussions at the college, are the demands of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), which require a new way of thinking when considering the PQM. The college must also offer programmes that will ensure that students acquire 4IR-related skills in artificial intelligence, robotics and cyber security, amongst others.

To ensure the relevance of our PQM, the college has started phasing out programmes that are considered to lack the capacity to equip students with critical and scarce skills, such as the R191 Human Resources Management programme. In finalizing this move, the college considered how students who have completed this programme struggle with securing work placement for the purposes of experiential learning, and graduating with an N Diploma. The market is thoroughly saturated with HRM candidates, which does not help our students in the long run. The college continues to consider other programmes which have outputs similar to that of the HRM programme, for the purpose of phasing out these programmes. It is also the intention of the college to offer an increased number of ICT-related programmes available from both the ministerially-approved (DHET) programmes menu and the occupational programmes menu accredited by the QCTO. In this regard, the College plans to introduce the new NCV ICT programme in coding and robotics at a number of our campuses in 2024.

Improving student performance through lecturer placement in industry

Work-integrated learning (WIL) is an umbrella term for any purposefully designed learning programme that integrates theoretical knowledge with authentic practice in the workplace. The purpose of WIL is to improve employability and develop competence, i.e., the ability to apply knowledge and skills in accordance with the demands of the workplace. The WIL for lecturers in the TVET College Sector is extremely important as it provides lecturers with an opportunity to keep abreast of changes within their fields of expertise and prepares students for employability through the provision of knowledge, skills and workplace experience relevant to their field of study. WIL also ensures that students are trained by lecturers who have current knowledge of the industries they prepare students for.

The intent of lecturer placements is also to strengthen the participation and relation between industry partners and TVET Colleges to build capacity within lecturers and to increase TVET College lecturers' knowledge and understanding of the latest developments and skills required in the various sectors. To date, we have secured Memorandums of Understanding with ABSA and the MICT SETA amongst others, for the purposes of WIL for lecturers. In July 2023, eleven lecturers used their college winter recess to visit the MICT SETA offices and their partners for industry exposure, and first-hand experience of company operations. This exposure to industry and business have not only shown lecturers how technology can enhance and assist with teaching and learning in the college, but also what new programmes can be offered that will enable students to find employment in related industries upon completion of their studies.

Technology in the classroom

It should go without saying that in 2023, technology should be standard in every classroom. The use of technology in the classroom has long been proven to augment teaching practices such that effectiveness and efficiency is improved, resulting in the improvement of both lecturer and student performance. To this effect, the academic unit has sought to support the implementation of technology in the classroom by implementing a training roadshow aimed at improving the digital literacy skills of all lecturers. This initiative will ensure that lecturers continue using technology effectively and efficiently in teaching practices, while also learning how to use educational applications to offer different teaching modes, including remotely. It is the intention of the college to introduce additional technological resources in classrooms to cultivate lively teaching methodology and to reinforce learning successfully.

Looking to the future

The 4th Industrial Revolution must be consciously considered while pursuing the future of economics in our nation and beyond. The college has already introduced online instruction, but wants to broaden its reach. Our lecturers have received training in 21st century digital transformation skills and all of them have access to laptops and data so that they can investigate ways and means to give instruction through technology. At the Brits Campus, an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre has been established to train both students and some of our staff members in this area. Our college continues to be a Huawei ICT Academy, providing some of our students with opportunities to access relevant 4IR skills programmes every year. Additionally, the DHET has challenged the college to start providing QCTO-recognized on-demand skills programmes that will enable students to immediately work or launch a small business upon completion. The college plans to heed this challenge in the 2023/2024 academic years.

The future does indeed appear bright, and as a TVET College that is in a position to help the nation close its significant skills gap, it is our responsibility to provide students with relevant programmes that will enable them to integrate successfully into the nation's economy, either as needed labour or as business owners. The college continues to adjust its strategies to ensure that this goal is achieved.

GRADUATES SHINE AT ANNUAL GRADUATION CEREMONY

By Mariette Viljoen – Corporate Communications Manager



The Dux Award for NCV Programmes is handed over to Ms GT Jezile (third from left) for achieving an average of 84.52% in the OA qualification. Pictured with her (fltr) are Dr Kabelo Moloantoa Council Chairperson, Ms Lerato Qoma from ABSA Bank, Mr Tumisoang Mosito DPA, Ms Shudeen Julies Nedbank and Mr Dika Mokoena Principal of ORBIT College

ORBIT College had the honour of hosting the annual Graduation Ceremony on 17 and 18 May at Hedgehog's Nest Country Lodge. During this prestigious event, more than 500 graduates and diplomandi who had achieved their respective qualifications were celebrated.

Due to the large number of qualifying graduates four separate ceremonies were hosted over the two days. Three ceremonies were dedicated to compliant NCV level 4 graduates from different programmes while the last ceremony celebrated candidates who met the requirements to be awarded their National N Diplomas across a wide spectrum of programmes.

Ms GT Jezile from Rustenburg Campus was awarded the sought-after Dux student award for National Certificate (Vocational) studies for achieving an outstanding average of 84.52% in Office Administration. Ms Jezile managed to obtain seventeen distinctions during her three-year period of study, making her an icon of sustained academic excellence amongst her peers. Human Resource Mangement graduate, Ms W Gwanisheni, also from Rustenburg Campus, scooped the Dux student award for Report 191 studies by achieving an average of 79.42% and eight distinctions.

Fifteen top achiever candidates were also recognised with each of them obtaining an average of at least 70% in their respective programmes. All top achiever awards as well as the two Dux awards were sponsored by long-standing partners of the College - ABSA Bank and Nedbank. ORBIT College is humbled by the generosity of our sponsors, ABSA Bank and Nedbank, and wish to convey our sincere gratitude to both partners.

For the first time in ORBIT College history, the ceremony also included the awarding of certificates to qualified artisans in the diesel and electrical trades. A handsome total of twenty-nine artisans qualified to be awarded their certificates in the diesel and electrical trades, after having successfully completed their trade tests. What was even more remarkable about this group of artisans was the large number of female students who qualified as artisans. This is a sure indication that ORBIT College is committed to play its part in achieving the target of the National Development Plan to produce 30 000 qualified artisans per annum by 2026.

The College management and staff would like to congratulate all compliant candidates on reaching this remarkable milestone and wish them all of the best in their future endeavours.



A qualified artisan graduate ascending the stage to receive her graduation scroll as Mr Peter Matlou announces her name

In The Fast Lane

ACCOLADES TO EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT GRADUATES

By Ndifelani Raphunga – HoD Artisan Development and Partnerships Mankwe Campus



College Principal, Mr Dika Mokoena (right) congratulates an ECD graduate (left)

More than 280 Early Childhood Development (ECD) graduates were acknowledged at the ECD graduation ceremony held on 21 June 2023 at Hedgehog's Nest. These candidates managed to obtain their Level 4 Further Education and Training Certificate in Early Childhood Development through the provincial project that was funded by the North West Department of Basic Education.

The ceremony, hosted by Mankwe Campus, was graced by the presence of, amongst others, the principal of ORBIT College, Mr DF Mokoena, representatives from the ETDP SETA regional office, campus managers and the respective HoDs for Artisan Development

and Partnerships. Mr T Namola, ETQA manager at ETDP SETA, delivered a motivational address at the occasion, inspiring graduates to take the impact they have on young children seriously.

ECD educators play a very important role in the education of young children because they encourage and promote the education, care and rights of children at a very young and vulnerable age. ECD practitioners have the huge responsibility to ensure that children feel safe and secure within their environment while creating a space for them to understand the world.

ORBIT College was privileged to be part of this DoBE-funded project as it provided the College with an opportunity to invest in the future of our children.



Ms Wilheminah Molapi (right) congratulates an ECD graduate



College Principal, Mr Dika Mokoena (right) congratulates ECD graduates

In The Fast Lane

FROM THE MARKETING AND RECRUITMENT DESK *By Wilheminah Modisane - Marketing and Recruitment Officer*

Information is key; make it your business!

The marketing and recruitment team works hard to keep the College community up to date on the latest developments within the TVET College sector. Sharing knowledge with the youth of the Bojanala District Municipality is critical because it allows them to make informed career choices. This is why the team enjoys providing educational material to both young and mature minds so that they, too, may have a progressive and sustainable future! The team also works tirelessly to reach out to differently abled people as the College strongly believes in inclusive education and training and that no one should be left behind. Every soul, regardless of form, shape or colour, deserves a chance at prosperity and access to accurate information.

Every year, the team undertakes remarkable recruitment campaigns such as career exhibitions, open days, stakeholder liaison sessions, outreach programmes, and more with the aim to inform and capacitate communities. This year was no exception, and even better, because we had the opportunity to attend two massive career exhibitions for the Bojanala district, brought back by popular demand, allowing the team to engage with large numbers of Grade 12 learners.

Career exhibitions and information sharing sessions



The Bojanala Annual Career Exhibition was held at Ben Marais Hall in Rustenburg from 21 to 24 February 2023. The event attracted Grade 12 learners, out-of-school youth, and LO educators.

The College was well represented at the Madibeng and Moretele Annual Career Exhibition, which was held at Primindia Hall in Brits from 14 to 16 February 2023. The expo targeted a total of forty (40) secondary schools in the Madibeng sub-district, with approximately 4 914 Grade 12 learners in attendance, and about twenty-nine (29) secondary schools in the Moretele sub-district area, with approximately 2 312 Grade 12 learners in attendance. The expo was also attended by out-of-school youth and LO educators from the various schools.

The marketing and recruitment team also had a chance to represent the College at the Bojanala Annual Career Exhibition, which primarily targeted around 10 000 Grade 12 learners from secondary schools in Rustenburg and Moses Kotane sub-districts. This exhibition took place from 21 - 24 February 2023 at the Ben Marais Hall in Rustenburg.

The return of these two large-scale annual career exhibitions hosted by the North West Department of Basic Education was a wonderful benefit to the College as we had the opportunity to connect with our target market on a wider and more rewarding scale.



The Grade 12 learners are pictured receiving information pamphlets and engaging with the marketing official about the different college study options available. The Madibeng and Moretele Annual Career Expo took place at Primindia Hall in Brits from 14 to 16 February 2023.

On 24 April 2023, the team welcomed an invitation from Pella Mathako Development Group Career Exhibition, which is also hosted on an annual basis. The exhibition is aimed at Grade 11 learners from two secondary schools, Morare and Sewagodimo Technical & Commercial High Schools, in the Pella Mathako village, as well as unemployed youth. In addition, at least two career days were attended exclusively for Grade 9 learners of Meridian Rustenburg and Charora Secondary Schools, respectively. Another invitation honoured by the College was the Youth for Rustenburg Skills Development and Career Day that was conducted on 22 June 2023 at the Ben Marais Hall. The event was aimed at Grade 11 and 12 learners as well as out-of-school youth. The marketing and recruitment team also supported the Y4R event, initiated by the Rustenburg Local Municipality.

Community outreach to NEETs market

ORBIT College supported the Bojanala District Municipality outreach event commemorating Youth Day at Pitsedisulejang Village on 26 June 2023. Other critical government departments and business entities that supported the youth month event included SEDA, SASSA, South African Red Cross Society, Home Affairs, Employment and Labour, Social Development, Old Mutual, and NYDA, to name a few. This initiative was primarily aimed at the youth and residents of Pitsedisulejang Village and surrounding communities.

The College marketing and recruitment team works relentlessly to educate and inform the public about our services and try to reach out to every potential location within our reach.



The College reached out to Pitsedisulejang Village community in support of the Bojanala District Municipality youth month celebration.



The College was well represented at the Meridian Rustenburg Career Day, which was organised for Grade 9 learners on 5 May 2023.



In support of the Pella Mathako Career Expo, the College showcased its services at Pella village. The expo attracted mostly learners in grades 11 and 12.

In The Fast Lane

CELEBRATING TVET COLLEGE MONTH *By Wilheminah Modisane - Marketing and Recruitment Officer*

In 2014, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation declared the month of August as TVET College Month after an engagement with the South African Public Colleges Organisation (SAPCO). This initiative has become an annual event for all 50 Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges. The TVET Month project exposes and encourages young people to seek careers that need artisan, vocational and technical abilities. Secondary school learners and those who are not in education, employment, or training (NEETs) are also encouraged to engage in vocational education and training and pursue career paths available through programmes offered at TVET Colleges. Following this approach, learners are provided with guidance on the significance of various TVET college programme offerings.

During the month of August, all 50 public TVET colleges will conduct various activities, including but not limited to direct and online engagements with youth/ employers/industry to celebrate the 2023 TVET Month, under the theme: "Modernising the TVET sector by unlocking skills development to tackle and accelerate youth employment and entrepreneurship".



Celebrating TVET College Month...



09:00 - 14:00

2023 Open Days

Brits Campus
17 August

Rustenburg Campus
24 August

Mankwe Campus
31 August



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Community Connexions

SUCCESSFUL NETWORKING SESSION PRESENTED BY THE CENTRE FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP RAPID INCUBATOR

(CfEri) By Nthabiseng Mosala – CfEri Marketing Admin Officer



The Business Breakfast networking session hosted on 01 March 2023 at the Rustenburg Campus Auditorium saw a number of funding stakeholders showcasing their services to incubatees in an attempt to forge valuable relationships

Establishing a business is not easy, despite having innovative inventions and ideas. It takes more than just having an idea of establishing a start-up. Planning and arrangement of scarce resources like finance, infrastructure (business facilities), technology, sourcing of raw materials, access to markets and applicable business management skills are major challenges for the establishment and survival of any enterprise. The majority of start-ups fail in their first year of inception due to them falling short on the above-mentioned aspects.

The purpose of the Centre for Entrepreneurship is to provide a business development pedestal to help newly established and existing businesses to prosper through the stages of entrepreneur and enterprise development. Guidance is provided regarding the early stages of entrepreneur and enterprise development (pre-business development), business development & growth as well as the matured stages. The role played by funders and business support services is invaluable.

To this end, the Centre for Entrepreneurship Rapid Incubator (CfEri) hosted a business breakfast networking session on 01 March 2023 at the Rustenburg Campus Music Auditorium for all incubatees who are receiving business support development services. This session provided incubatees with an opportunity to consult and network with funding stakeholders.



Mr Ivan Rasenyalo, founder and owner of Myras Building & Construction shares his journey with the audience in attendance

Invited stakeholders included National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA), First National Bank (FNB Small Business Division), Franchise Association of South Africa (FASA), National Credit Regulator (NCR), MTN Business and Anglo Zimele.

The supportive role played by the CfEri was highlighted by Mr Ivan Rasenyalo from Myras Building & Construction as he shared his entrepreneurial journey with fellow aspiring entrepreneurs and business associates. Myras Building & Construction was established in 2018 by Mr Rasenyalo after which the company was incubated at the CfEri for 5 years. During this period the business received valuable business support development guidance, access to funding and access to stakeholder assistance. Currently the company has an annual turnover of R1 000 000.00 and employs 25 permanent staff members

Mr Kagiso Domingos, inventor of Power Starliner presented his exciting stage zero battery invention on the day. This invention was inspired by the tight load shedding schedules being rolled out in the country at present. Mr Domingos is currently being assisted by the CfEri and SEDA professionals with product-testing and patenting of his invention



Mr Kagiso Domingos drew his inspiration from the national electricity crisis to invent the stage zero battery. This invention was showcased at the networking session



Also featured on the programme was Mr Baldwin Mashaba of First National Bank (Boom Street, Rustenburg) who shared information about new packages available at FNB for small businesses.

Amongst the attendees at the event was Mr Mogomotsi, a student at the Rustenburg Campus and owner of SLOYVIN Pty who showcased his clothing range. Mr Mogomotsi is a Jewellery Design & Manufacture student who has ventured into clothing and textile. Sloyvin caters for all genders and the target market is teenagers and young adults.



Pictured here is Mr Mogomotsi Mgorosi from Sloyvin Pty listening attentively to presenters at the networking session.

Another incubatee client in attendance was 3 RAMS Enterprise, a branding, media and manufacturing company that has been receiving business support development services from CfEri. The company is owned by Mr Olebogeng Ramafoke and has been incubated by CfEri since 2020. This apprising enterprise has been awarded funding by the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) for sewing machinery to the value of R100 000.00. 3 RAMS Enterprise has four permanent employees who are responsible for quality check, photography, sewing and embroidery respectively.



Attendees obtain information from the National Credit Regulator



Anglo Zimele exhibition stall



MTN franchise business unit support



Employees of 3 RAMS Enterprise engage with clients at the stall where they showcased their products

Community Connexions

CFERI 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Services SETA training for cooperatives and start-up businesses



Pictured above is the SERVICES SETA mobile training unit and the CfEri at Mankwe Campus where the training of cooperatives, start-up businesses and NGOs took place from 16-17 February 2023

CfEri partnered with SERVICES SETA to train students who are interested in establishing their own businesses and cooperatives from Mogwase and surrounding areas. The training took place from 16-17 February at Mankwe Campus with ten cooperatives, twenty start-up businesses, and five Non-profit organisations (NPOs) included in the training session.

The training offered was quite comprehensive, covering different modules relevant to each group. The topics ranged from history and challenges experienced by different enterprises, to relevant legislation, ethics, proposal development, business concept development and sales and marketing skills and essential entrepreneurial skills,

amongst others. Upon completion of the training business owners received an accredited Level 2 certificate.

Appliance repair and maintenance

In a partnership fostered by ORBIT TVET COLLEGE CfEri with Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) thirty candidates were trained on electrical appliance repair and maintenance. The five-day training session that took place from 29 May to 02 June at Mankwe Campus, catered for unemployed youth in and around the Moses Kotane Local Municipality and provided hands-on contextual training. The programme was aimed at equipping participants with a fundamental understanding of fault-finding techniques, specifically aimed at home appliance repair. Upon successful completion of the training, candidates were awarded competency certificates and received an appliance repair toolbox.

Confectionery baking certification ceremony

On 06 June 2023, CfEri in partnership with the FoodBev SETA, hosted a certification ceremony to celebrate twenty-one learners who attended and successfully completed a two-week confectionery training course. The participants passed three modules in an effort to grow their product development and businesses. The modules focused on training students to produce a range of bread products, bread roll products and sweet dough products in a craft baking environment. The successful candidates will be taken by National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) for training on access to funding for their business.



Confectionery baking certification recipients

Youth month commemoration – Information session: 14 June 2023



CfEri took part in a youth development and empowerment session organised by the Kgetleng Social Development Services on 14 June 2023. The event was honoured by different stakeholders which included NYDA, the North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism (DEDECT), Social Development, Local Economic Development and Tribal House

The 2023 youth month is celebrated under the theme "Accelerating youth economic emancipation for a sustainable future". In an effort to draw more young people into the economy, government has initiated various youth development and empowerment initiatives to support young people, including support being provided to develop youth entrepreneurship in the country. The CfEri was approached by the Kgetleng Social Development Services to address the youth and community during an information-sharing session that was hosted on 14 June 2023. This initiative was taken because the youth around Kgetleng are not well-informed about growth and development opportunities available to them. Also present at the event were other relevant stakeholders, NYDA, North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism (DEDECT), the North West Department of Social Development, Local Economic Development and Tribal House, providing attendees with an integrated, sustainable and comprehensive approach to overcome poverty and the threat of unemployment

RKMK Projects – yet another CfEri Success Story

Miss Malebo Malapane from Brits Campus is one of Centre's success stories so far this year. Miss Malapane registered a company, RKMK Projects, with the CfEri in 2021. RKMK Projects specialises in the manufacturing and production of cleaning detergents. The company has received the SABS stamp of approval for utilisation of the products that include bleach, pine gel, washing powder, and dishwashing liquid, amongst others.

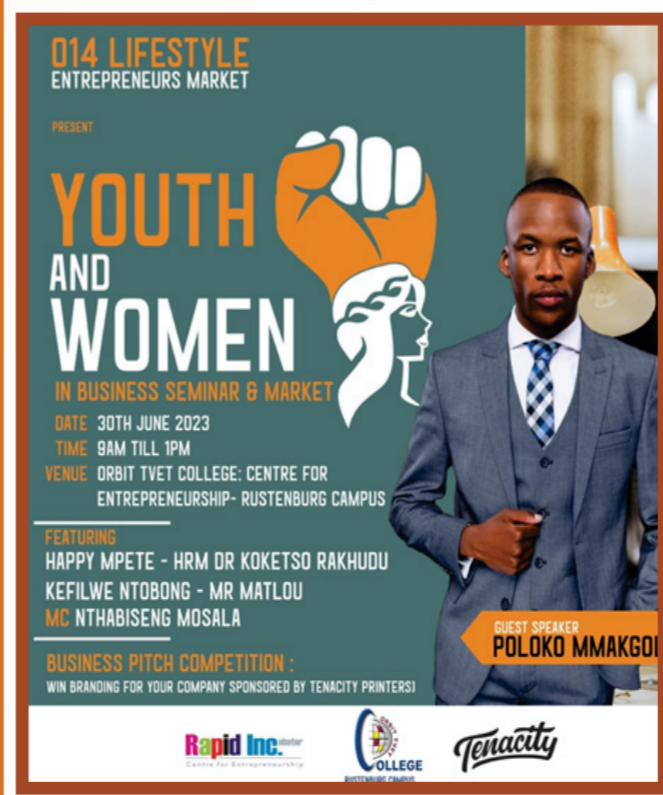


Mr Simion Mokoena (left) from National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) handing over funding to Ms Malebo Malapane (middle), Mr Peter Matlou, CfEri Manager (right)

Miss Malapane received R50 000.00 in funding from the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) for equipment and operating capital for her start-up business. The CfEri wishes to congratulate Ms Malapane on this achievement and wish her all of the best for future business growth and endeavours.

Youth and Women in Business Seminar and market

The Lifestyle Entrepreneurs Market and Women in Business Seminar was held on 30 June 2023 to inspire young businesses and to create an opportunity for young entrepreneurs to network. The programme was packed with speakers, touching on a variety of relevant topics relevant to youth month and women in business. Guest speaker, Poloko Mmakgolane, captivated attendees' attention with an inspiring message. Entrepreneurs also had an opportunity to exhibit during the event. The event was held at CfERI Rustenburg Campus assisting one business at a time.



The future is entrepreneurship!

12 Community Connexions

PARTNERSHIPS GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH BY Mr Kabelo Moleko - ASD Partnership and Linkages

Partnership with KgabisoPalesa NPC



Pictured here are candidates of the REFSED programme from the North West Province while on a site visit to the solar plant in Zeerust

ORBIT College is one step closer to joining the national drive towards increased access to renewable energy. This comes as the College partnered with KgabisoPalesa NPC to train fifteen unemployed youth on Solar PV – battery hybrid system supply and installation as part of the Renewables for Socio-Economic Development (REFSED) programme. The training will be rolled out at Rustenburg Campus. KgabisoPalesa NPC, known as KP Cares is non-profit organisation that invests in the empowerment of previously disadvantaged communities across South Africa. The REFSED programme initiative was developed in partnership with AECI Ltd in an attempt to provide training and practical exposure on energy efficiency, solar photovoltaic (PV) and battery energy storage systems to unemployed youth in the North West Province, Rustenburg area. The partnership between ORBIT College and KP Cares is aimed at achieving the main objective of the programme which is to galvanize the development of a green economy in previously disadvantaged communities in an attempt to build a pool of skilled youth who are able to respond to opportunities related to green economic growth. In accomplishing this objective, the programme will play its part in enhancing opportunities for creating sustainable jobs, alleviating poverty and promoting inclusive

socio-economic development through green economy.

GOLDEN ERA PARTNERSHIP MEETING

ORBIT College prides itself in building meaningful and mutually beneficial relationships. On Wednesday, 28 June 2023 Mr Des Philay, CEO of the Golden Era Group of Companies paid the college a visit where discussions were held between Mr Philay, Mr Kabelo Moleko, ASD Partnership and Linkages and Mr Dika Mokoena, College Principal with the aim of fostering a MoU between the College and Golden Era for student and lecturer placement. Golden Era has over 80 years' experience in the packaging industry and boast transferable skills that will yield favourable returns for our students. Both parties are convinced that the skills transfer offered through job placements at Golden Era will deliver a soaring workforce and employable students.



From left to right: Mr K Moleko (Partnerships and Linkages Manager at ORBIT College) Mr D Philay (CEO Golden Era Group of Companies) and Mr D Mokoena (Principal of ORBIT College)

MICTSETA visits AI lab

In response to the targets set by the National Skills Development Plan (NSDP) aimed at ensuing adequate, appropriate and high quality skills that contribute to economic development, employment creation and social development, a memorandum of understanding was signed between MICTSETA and ORBIT College on 13 December 2022, specifically aimed at developing skills within the 4IR space. To this end, the Partnerships & Linkages Unit at ORBIT College invited MICTSETA to visit Brits Campus on Monday 26 June 2023 to view the Artificial Intelligence (AI) lab.



Ms Gugu Sema (standing) engages with students enrolled for the AI Programme at Brits Campus during the site visit. During a site visit, MICTSETA and 4IR representatives were treated to a tour of the AI laboratory at Brits Campus

The visit forms part of plans to offer a number of 4IR-related occupational qualifications at Brits and Rustenburg Campuses within the next academic year. The SAQA-accredited qualifications that will be offered, include Design Thinking Practitioner, Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence Software Developer, Data Science Practitioner, Internet of Things, Software Tester and Robotic Processing Automation. All qualifications are NQF Level 5, with the exception of Internet of Things that is an NQF Level 4 qualification. The Partnerships and Linkages Office is currently in the process of applying for accreditation with the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) to offer the qualifications. MICTSETA will contribute financially to procure equipment, resources and material necessary to roll out the qualifications at the AI laboratory at Brits Campus and ICT workshop at Rustenburg Campus.

Placement of lecturers in preparation for rolling out the qualifications will be done at MICTSETA in Midrand, Mlab in Lynwood, Pretoria, Moja Centres in Menlyn, Pretoria and

Forge in Randburg during the July recess. Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with regards to the establishment and support of 4IR labs and lecturer placement were signed by the two parties after the visit.

Launch of mining and minerals CoS hosted by the MQA

Since the MQA commenced with the Centres of Specialisation programme as a pilot in 2019, seven of the thirteen priority trades as identified by the National Development Plan have been implemented through the CoS programme. These include millwright, welder, fitter and turner, diesel mechanic, rigger, electrician and boilermaker. The CoS programme has since evolved into a fully-fledged programme with the development of these priority trades being done through the QCTO. To this end the CoS programme was launched within the Mining and Minerals Sector on Wednesday, 14 June 2023 at Tshwane South TVET College.



Pictured here at the launch of the Mining and Minerals Sector CoS programme are four students from ORBIT College who were funded by MQA for Occupational Certificate: Diesel Mechanic at Mankwe Campus. Standing at the back (f.l.t.r.) is Dr Thabo Mashongoane, CEO of MQA, DHET Deputy-Director General: Skills Development, Mr Zukile Mvalo, Ms Anne Atlee, MQA Board member, Mr David Msiza, MQA Board Chairperson and Ms Zodwa Mashininini – MQA Senior Strategic Project Manager.

The event was hosted under the theme "Empowering artisans for employability and self-employment". In attendance were DHET Director-General, Dr Nkosinathi Sishi, MQA CEO, Mr Thabo Mashongoane, representatives and CoS learners from TVET Colleges across the country as well as representatives from the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM).

Since the CoS programme was implemented at ORBIT College in 2019, a total of 74 qualified artisans have been produced by the College. Two separate intakes were administered which produced 55 qualified artisans in the diesel mechanic trade and 19 qualified artisans in the electrical trade respectively.

13 Community Connexions

LGSETA ENHANCES STUDENT LEARNING



Mr Masixole Bangeni, Provincial Manager – North West LGSETA, (right) handed over ten electrical toolkits to Ms Tebogo Tlhopile, Brits Campus Manager (left) on 25 April 2023 as part of the ORBIT College/LGSETA partnership. The purpose of the handover was to provide CoS learners in electrical trade, currently funded by the Department of Health and MerSETA, with electrical toolkits to equip them with the necessary tools of the trade.

W&R SETA PROVIDES ALTERNATIVE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT FOR COLLEGE

The continuous implementation of load shedding by ESKOM impacts on all sectors nationwide. In an effort to assist the College to address the challenges associated with the persistent power cuts, W&RSETA and ORBIT College signed an agreement on alternative energy infrastructure support. W&RSETA will be providing all college sites with solar photovoltaic panels. However, this agreement is not only aimed at securing infrastructure development and continuation of teaching and learning during load shedding at the College, but will also contribute towards skills development. While W&RSETA will provide the funding for the panels, ORBIT College will be responsible for appointing a service provider to install the panels and to manage the project accordingly. Installation of the panels is planned for August 2023.

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH - AN ARTISAN'S TESTIMONY

By Tumelo Magano – qualified artisan in the diesel mechanic trade



Pictured here is qualified diesel mechanic, Mr Tumelo Magano, working on the hydraulic board in the CoS workshop at Mankwe Campus

Being a Centre of Specialisation (CoS) apprentice really taught me perseverance, hard work, dedication and most importantly, the skills to become a diesel mechanic. With the help of our dedicated facilitators and artisans who trained us, I'm a qualified diesel mechanic today. The CoS programme did not only equip us with diesel mechanic skills, but also offered learning opportunities in the fields of business management, first-aid, fire-fighting, computer literacy, gas welding and welding. This extensive exposure not only enhanced our employability, but also provided us with ability to become entrepreneurs and to create employment.

CoS has opened up employment opportunities to engineering students because of the inclusion of practical skills, which were largely lacking in the Report 191 Engineering Studies qualification upon completion of N6. Although the CoS journey has not been easy, we are really grateful that we could be part thereof.

As Tata Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon one can use to change the world". Today I have a skill and a toolbox to make the world of engineering a better one.

Tumelo Magano formed part of the 2019 CoS intake at Mankwe Campus, funded by MQA

DHET TRAINING ON NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS



Campus Managers as chief invigilators, deputy chief invigilators and examination officers from all three campuses attended National Examination Training facilitated by DHET on Conduct, Administration and Management of Private Colleges. Rustenburg Campus currently serves as a distribution point for fourteen Private Colleges

Campus Matters

UK BRITISH COUNCIL CEO VISITS AI CENTRE AT BRITS CAMPUS *By Reuben Marakalala - Media and Communications Officer*



Pictured f.l.t.r: Ms Skhumbuzo Masango – British Council Schools Project Officer, Ms Rumbi Mapani – British Council – Skills Consultant, Mr Harry Kgankenna –AI programme coach, Ms Tebogo Tlhophile – Brits Campus Manager, Mr Scott McDonald –British Council CEO, Mr Dika Mokoena –College Principal, Ms George Barret – British Council South Africa Country Director, and Veronica Matiziba British Council Regional Senior Marketing Manager

ORBIT College has been joying a solid partnership with the British Council for more than ten years. In 2022, the British Council in collaboration with ORBIT College piloted an Artificial Intelligence (AI) programme at Brits Campus that has since started to bear significant fruits. Artificial Intelligence is the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, more especially computer systems. The specific applications of AI include expert systems, natural language processing, speech recognition and machine vision in simple terms technology at an advanced level. The significance of the AI project was cemented further on Tuesday, 11 July 2023 as a British Council delegation, led by CEO, Mr Scott McDonald, visited Brits Campus with the specific focus to view and experience the advancement made in Artificial Intelligence (AI) at the AI Centre. Regional Manager for Mpumalanga and North West TVET Colleges, Dr Nick Balkrishen, College Council Chairperson, Dr Kabelo Moloantoa and College Principal, Mr Dika Mokoena formed part of the College delegation who welcomed the British Council delegation. Brits Campus Manager, Ms Tebogo Tlhophile and Campus AI Programme coach, Mr Harry Kgankenna were also in attendance to honour this special occasion.

During the management meeting, Mr McDonald indicated that he was so impressed with feedback received from his colleagues about the AI project and its objectives that he decided to visit the College himself to observe what the students are doing. Apart from observing the strides made in the advancement of the AI project, the visit also served to strengthen the partnership between South Africa and the UK since it is aimed at changing the lives of young people. Mr Dika Mokoena, College Principal indicated that the College is indeed heading the right direction if this programme succeeds in eventually reducing the unemployment statistics of the country. In his presentation, Mr Mokoena pointed out that the College is planning on expanding the AI laboratory and recruiting more students. At present, the AI programme has only nine committed students of which five are male and four are female. Mr Harry Kgankenna, AI Programme coach highlighted the huge progress made in AI projects by the enrolled students since they started on the programme. The delegation had the opportunity to witness the progress registered as they visited the AI laboratory and interacted directly with the students. The different projects include, but are not limited to biometric entrance control, anti-cable theft alarming, temperature-based water recommendation and AI asset management.



Pictured above is British Council CEO, Mr Scott McDonald registering and requesting access to enter the facility via a biometric entrance control system

In his closing remarks, College Council Chairperson Dr Moloantoa expressed his gratitude towards all role players while reiterating College management's dedication to the AI programme and ensuring its compliance to National Development Plan (NDP) objectives, more specifically in terms of addressing the challenge of gender inequality by recruiting and enrolling more female students.



British Council delegation pictured together with AI programme students and ORBIT College delegates

MANKWE CAMPUS SRC TRAINING SESSION CONDUCTED SUCCESSFULLY

By Ms Welheminah Molapi, Acting Campus Manager Mankwe Campus



Pictured here f.l.t.r. are Ms Gertrude Baloyi, Bursary Officer Mankwe Campus, Ms Mmapula Segatlhe, Student Support Officer, Mr Tshupo Mashaba, former SRC member and Ms Dikeledi Senoamadi, Student Support Academic Officer at the SRC training session held at the Mankwe Campus Conference Centre from 11-12 July 2023

Upon concluding the SRC elections for 2023, newly elected campus SRC office bearers underwent a training session during which their roles and responsibilities were explained and the team got to interact and engage with each other, focused on taking the Campus forward. The Mankwe Campus SRC training session, coordinated by the office of Ms Mmapula Segatlhe –Student Support Officer, was held from 11 to 12 July at the Conference Centre. The programme was packed with relevant topics presented by different campus representatives. Former Executive SRC member, Mr Tshupo Mashaba delivered an inspiring motivational address and shared his experience as former College SRC member with the newly elected cohort.

HIGHER HEALTH RAISES AWARENESS ABOUT TUBERCULOSIS (TB)

By Ms Welheminah Molapi, Acting Campus Manager Mankwe Campus

Each year, World Tuberculosis (TB) Day is commemorated on 24 March 24 in attempt to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of TB, and to step up efforts to end the global TB epidemic. This year, Higher Health, in collaboration with the office of the North West MEC of Health, Mr Madoda Sambada, pioneered a TB awareness campaign at Mankwe Campus on 22 March 2023. The event was widely supported with students from the North West University (NWU), representatives from the Department of Health and the Moses Kotane Municipality being in attendance. A pledge was signed in support of the campaign by Mr Sambada as MEC of Health in the Province, Ms Welheminah Molapi, as acting Campus Manager of Mankwe Campus as well as the stakeholder representatives from the Municipality and students from the campus.

The theme for World TB Day 2023 is "Yes! We Can End TB." The theme focuses attention on tuberculosis (TB) and stresses that it is in our collective power to end TB by 2030 as highlighted by the Sustainable Development Goal 3 which is aimed at ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages. World TB Day is an opportunity to unite the global population in the fight against the disease. The day is also an opportunity to focus on the progress made in the prevention and treatment of Tuberculosis, and to advocate for more funding and research to combat the disease.



Mr Madoda Sambada, NW MEC for Health (left) addressed stakeholders from the Mankwe Campus, ORBIT College, North West University (NWU), Department of Health and the Moses Kotane Municipality as part of the TB awareness campaign in support of World TB Day. This event was hosted on 22 March 2023 at Mankwe Campus.

Central Office

ORBIT COLLEGE WELCOMES NEWLY APPOINTED DEPUTY PRINCIPAL FINANCE



Mr Moses Sebaetse - Deputy Principal Finance

A new title, but a familiar face! Mr Moses Sebaetse officially assumed his duties as Deputy Principal Finance at ORBIT College on 01 May 2023. Mr Sebaetse served at ORBIT College as SAICA-appointed Deputy Principal Finance from November 2018 until June 2019 after which he was appointed as support Deputy Principal Finance at Taletso TVET College until April 2023. Being known at ORBIT College as a positive, diligent and dedicated person, Mr Sebaetse told Ms Charlotte Sibanda in an interview that the experience he gained while at Taletso College proved to be very valuable and will assist greatly as he embarks on strengthening financial controls and improving the auditor's opinion in his new capacity as Deputy Principal Finance.

When asked to share some personal information with us, Mr Sebaetse referred to himself as an "athlete at heart" who has a passion for soccer and running. Skopo and mala-mogodu are definite meal favourites with our new deputy principal.

We would like to welcome and congratulate Mr Sebaetse on his appointment. ORBIT College management, staff and students are looking forward to working with him. O a mogetswe Rra Sebaetse!

CLIENT SERVICES ENHANCED THROUGH CHATBOT FUNCTIONALITY *By Mariette Viljoen – ASD Communication*

Post-COVID-19 times have been characterised by rapidly increasing digital transformation and technological advancement around the globe. South Africa is no exception. Artificial Intelligence (AI) has taken the country by storm as digitalisation of services across multiple sectors virtually transformed, altered and modified our sense of reality. Recognising the potential of AI to revolutionise almost any sphere, the Corporate Communications Unit seized the opportunity to enhance and improve client services offered by the College by introducing a web-based chatbot functionality aligned to the College BMS.

The purpose of the ORBIT chatbot is to improve client engagement and interaction by providing them with real time feedback and relevant responses when enquiring about matters such as programmes offered at the college, application and registration procedures, student accommodation or financial aid opportunities. Chatbots is a popular AI development due to their capability of constant and automated refinement and training through user queries, allowing them to provide clients with a more pleasant and productive experience. The ORBIT College chatbot will be accessible via the College website by means of a pop-up screen upon accessing the home page. Clients with enquiries will be able to easily interact with the ORBIT College brand through a simulated conversation. The personalised experience offered by the chatbot will ensure that potential or existing clients get answers faster, saving time and energy and enabling them to make decisions about the College quicker. Set-up work on the chatbot is currently being finalised. We are looking forward to announcing full implementation of the ORBIT College chatbot functionality by end of July 2023.



CENTRAL OFFICE WELLNESS TEAM

By Reuben Marakalala - Media and Communications Officer

The wellness committee at Central Office arranged a number of activities that addressed a spectrum of employee wellness matters. Physical wellbeing, emotional, mental and psychological wellness, information-sharing and intellectual development initiatives all formed part of the activity plan that was implemented on a continuous basis during the first semester of 2023.



Central Office staff engaging in full body workouts during the bootcamp at CrossFit

Physical wellness informs a healthy lifestyle

Two physical wellness activities were arranged for staff members in an attempt to raise awareness of the importance to keep fit to foster a healthy mind and body. These included an aerobics session on 24 March at Impala Rugby Club and a boot camp at the Cross Fit gym on 09 June. The wellness committee are planning to organise physical wellness activities on a more regular basis in the hope that attendance of such activities will drive staff to embrace a healthy lifestyle, especially those who could not muster the energy to start exercising at home. The long-term benefits of a healthy lifestyle cannot be denied as these include mentally and physically productive employees and a conducive environment where employees are continuously motivated to maintain an interest in a healthier lifestyle. On Friday, 02 June staff members braced themselves to attempt the mountain hiking trails of Majakaneng. Staff had the option to choose a 3km, 5km or 10km hike with groups being formed depending on individual fitness levels. Prior to starting the hiking journey, staff were informed about the history of the Tribe Bapo Ba Mogale and the role they played with regards to land issues during the apartheid regime.



Central Office staff made the most of their hiking experience at Moyakaneng

SPA TREATMENTS BOOST STAFF MORALE



From left to right: Ms Bonolo Phalathe, Mr Stenley Kekana, Ms Keabetswe Njoro, and Ms Rebhone Phalathe

Noble Sister Spa visited Central Office on 14 April to treat staff members to hand-, head-, and neck & shoulder massages as part of our wellness programme. The team of experts explained to the wellness team that the benefits of body massages are mostly related to relaxation and reduction of stress. Hand massages help people to sleep better at night, decrease anxiety and swelling, and restore balance in the body by removing any blockages. Head massages, in turn, reduce muscle tension, improve the nervous system, and promote a calm and uplifted mood while neck and shoulder massages relieve migraines and eye strains, strengthen the immune system, and recover muscle soreness. Massaging on sore areas of the body encourages increased blood flow and oxygen which helps to soothe pain and reduce inflammation.

Student Support Pitstop

MESSAGE FROM THE SRC PRESIDENT *By Amelia Tawana - SRC President 2023*



Amelia Tawana
SRC President 2023

In my capacity as the 2023 SRC President, I would like to wish each and every student a prosperous and conducive academic tenure at our institution. The 2023 Student Representative Council strives to promote decolonised, free and democratic access to education for every student. Our door is always open to assist you in your journey. In this regard I would also like to express my gratitude to all stakeholders, college management, lecturers and supporters of ORBIT TVET college for the outstanding service and continuous support of our students, all in an effort to ensure that they have the necessary resources to support them throughout their academic journey. It is against this background, that we want to encourage all students to use their time fruitfully and to do their ultimate best while they have the opportunity to study at ORBIT College. Let us all strive for academic excellence and be the carpenters of our own destiny.

However, at ORBIT College students are not only supported to develop and grow academically. In support of human and social development, our college offers a variety of extra-curricular activities to help our students develop their talents and provide opportunities for growth in fields, other than academic performance. I would like to encourage fellow students to make use of these opportunities by taking part in sports, cultural and social activities offered by the College for it is often these experiences that remain part of our memories the longest. What better example than our ORBIT FC boys! Congratulations to our football team for making us proud in the championship making it to the finals in the ABC Motsepe National Playoffs. We are very proud of our boys.

Lastly, I wish to emphasise that it is imperative to work smart and to have a positive attitude towards life and achieving our goals because a positive attitude inspires higher altitudes. Therefore, let us work together towards building a sustainable and developing economy to ensure a brighter future for ourselves and for generations to come, while also promoting the spirit of humanity, kindness, mutual respect, inclusivity and regard for social culture in our daily encounters as fellow orbitants. Be the change you want to see and always remember - if your dreams do not scare you, they are not big enough. If you can dream it, you can do it.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND STUDENT PLACEMENT REMAIN A PRIORITY *By Nnane Rakhudu - Academic Support Coordinator*

ORBIT COLLEGE AWARDED FOR STUDENT PLACEMENT

The Student Support Services unit did ORBIT College proud by receiving the SAPCO Student Placement Award for 2022/2023. This prestigious award was bestowed upon the College by the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Science and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande as part of the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative (PYEI) Project 2022/2023. The PYEI, implemented as the Basic Education Employment Initiative (BEEI) across all nine provinces has succeeded in the reduction of youth unemployment in the country and added value by stimulating the economy of South Africa. The initiative saw more than 320 000 young men and women securing job opportunities in ± 23 000 public schools. The youth placed in the initiative were appointed as Education Assistants (EAs) and General School Assistants (GSAs) and they provided support before school starts, during school time and after school.

ORBIT TVET College managed to obtain overall 2nd place as the College with second highest student placement for the PYEI 2022/2023 reporting period and was awarded a trophy and a certificate. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to colleagues for their unwavering support and enthusiasm in placing our students during the period. Congratulations to all stakeholders who made this achievement possible.

INTERN INDUCTION AND PLACEMENTS WELL UNDERWAY

The College is doing well in terms of implementing its intern induction and placement strategy for the year. So far, twenty (20) FOODBEV interns have been placed at different host employers for a period of eighteen months. In June, one-hundred (100) College-paid interns were placed at different host employers with those who are 35years and older and those who are volunteering, being prioritised. On 27 June a further thirty-one (31) ETPD SETA interns were inducted. These interns reported for duty at their respective host employers on 3 July.

PEER ACADEMIC LEADER (PAL) TRAINING

The Peer Academic Leadership (PAL) development programme is an on-course academic support strategy, aimed at empowering students with academic

2023 SRC ELECTIONS *By Ms Yvonne Mdemela - Social Support Coordinator*



The newly elected twenty-four elected SRC members for 2023

The 2023 SRC Elections were conducted successfully with elections taking place from 08 – 09 March 2023 across all three campuses. A fully online hybrid voting system was used, recording an all-time new record number of 2403 student votes being cast.

A total of twenty-four (24) SRC members were elected, with eight members per campus serving on the SRC. The twenty-four elected SRC members then elected the College Executive SRC comprising twelve members. Ms Amelia Tawana from Rustenburg Campus was elected as SRC President with Ms Pretty Mohajane from Brits Campus serving as the deputy-president for 2023.

Congratulations to all elected SRC members. May you serve your term with dignity, diligence and humility!



SRC Executive: seated, f.l.t.r. Ms Tholakele Mdluli, Ms Pretty Mohajane, Ms Amelia Tawana, Ms Karabo Seithobogeng, Ms Mmapaseka Khoza - Standing: f.l.t.r Mr Neo Rammole, Ms Blessed Tihabela, Mr Junior Moleleki, Ms Arabang Maphunya, Mr Goitseona Mfati, Ms Zwihuya Makhokha, Mr John Segami

leadership skills to enhance their ability to study and assist their classmates. Not only does peer tutoring allow students to receive one-on-one assistance, but it also promotes academic and social development for both the tutor and tutee and improves self-confidence and self-efficacy. To this end, PALs have to be sufficiently equipped to fulfil their role of academic support.

It is against this background that ninety PALs from the three campuses were inducted from 27 -29 March 2023 at Konka Family Adventure Resort. During their training these young leaders were exposed to a number of different physical and mentally challenging activities, equipping them with the necessary skills to guide and lead their peers within the academic learning space.



Peer Academic Leaders (PALs) from the three campuses were properly inducted and trained for a three-day period by being exposed to a number of physically - and mentally-challenging activities at Konka Family Adventure Resort.

Student Support Pitstop

COLLEGE ACADEMIC DAY

By Nnane Rakhudu - Academic Support Coordinator

Every year Student Support Services hosts a College Academic Day, filled with a range of different academic activities that put the skills of students to the test. Typical academically inclined activities include a mathematics and mathematical literacy Olympiad across different programme levels, public speaking, prepared reading, debate, an entrepreneurship and innovation challenge and a general knowledge quiz.



Ms N Rakhudu addressing the students about the rules and conduct of the academic competition

This year was no different as 20-21 April saw the annual College Academic Day being hosted at Rustenburg Campus Music Auditorium. After two gruelling days, Mankwe Campus was crowned as the overall winning campus. However, this was not an easy feat as competitors from all three campuses faced off and walked away with gold in different categories.

In the Mathematics and Mathematical Literacy Olympiad, Rustenburg and Mankwe Campus each achieved five first places, with Brits Campus securing two top spots. Mankwe Campus claimed victory in public speaking, with Rustenburg Campus beating its opponents in prepared reading. Brits Campus was the champion in the debate, entrepreneurship and innovation challenge as well as the general knowledge quiz.

2023 SRC TRAINING AND INDUCTION CAMP



The 24 newly elected SRC members enjoyed extensive training & team building activities at Konka

Before officially assuming their duties, the newly elected SRC members attended an SRC Training and Induction Camp on 16 – 19 March 2023 at Konka Family Adventure Resort, Rustenburg. During this training session the new electives were trained on governance and management, team building, college policies, college processes and procedures, financial aid and their respective roles and responsibilities, amongst others.

The team also had an opportunity to get to know each other, their strengths and weaknesses. The various team-building activities also taught SRC members how to function more effectively as a team.



SRC members engaged in numerous team-building activities during their training camp that was held from 16-19 March at Konka Family Adventure Resort just outside Rustenburg

COLLEGE PARTICIPANTS SHINE AT CoSACSA ATHLETICS AND ARTS & CULTURAL FESTIVAL *By Mr Stanley Kekana - Extra-Curricular Manager*

Being a member of College Sport, Arts and Culture South Africa (CoSACSA), ORBIT College actively participates in the five annual CoSACSA calendar events. These include the Track and Field Championships, the Conductors Masterclass Workshop, the Arts and Cultural Festival, Women in Sport Conference and Ball Games.



The College Athletics Championships was held at the THS sportsgrounds in March 2023

CoSACSA Track and Field Championships

The College started the 2023 sport, arts & culture journey on a positive note as the 2022 results paved way for the 2023 participation. New records had to be set in fond memory of the Late Queen Tabane, the male netball coach, athletics female team manager and visual arts mentor. Ms Tabane was the real jack of all trades and master of all. May her soul rest in eternal peace and continue to find solace in the Lord. CoSACSA Track and Field Championships

All campuses were keen to prove a point by ensuring mass participation at the College Athletics Championships at the THS sportsground with the aim of providing as many athletes as possible with an opportunity to compete and meet ASA qualifying standards for the selection of the College team.

The ORBIT College team stood its ground against the teams from Vuselela College and Taletso College on Monday, 27 March at the Provincial Athletics Championships held at Bergsig Academy in Rustenburg where the Provincial athletics team was selected to participate at the National CoSACSA Championships. The selected athletes had to meet ASA qualifying standards in order to be considered for the team. Nineteen athletes from the ORBIT College team were selected to represent the Provincial athletics team, including four female athletes and one para-athlete.

The National CoSACSA Sakhivo Zuma Track & Fields Championships were hosted at the Msunduzi Athletics Stadium in Pietermaritzburg from Saturday, 01 to Tuesday, 04 April 2023. The North West athletics team did well by obtaining an overall fourth position with a total of eighteen medals (six gold, six silver and six bronze). The ORBIT College athletes who formed part of the team managed to collect a whopping eleven medals amongst them by winning five gold, three silver and three bronze medals. Amid intentions to strengthen and improve the participation of female athletes, the College is profoundly impressed and extremely proud of our athletes!

National Arts & Culture Festival

Although campus participation in the College Arts and Culture Festival was hampered by the student protest action and shutdown, College eliminations managed to be hosted by Rustenburg Campus on 03 June – a mere twelve days before the Provincial Arts & Culture Festival was hosted by Vuselela College at their Taung Campus. Unfortunately, the Conductors' Masterclass Workshop could not be attended as the College did not have a conductor at the time. The College went on to represent the North West Province at the Sand Du Plessis Theatre in Bloemfontein from Saturday, 01 to Monday, 03 July 2023. Represented in the categories of Fine Arts (Pencil, Charcoal Drawing and Brush Painting) Pantsula, Gumboots and Free Style Dances, Soli; Soprano, Tenor, Baritone, and Duet, the College returned with three gold medals, contributing to the overall winning position obtained by the Province with five gold, three silver and one bronze medal. ORBIT College applauds this achievement and wishes to congratulate all our students who did us proud by participating at national level!



ORBIT students celebrating their victory at the National Arts and Culture Festival

Given the local talent and the general performance of the College in extra-mural activities, a different approach to sport, arts and culture is needed. The notion of recreational participation needs to be changed completely by adopting a competitive approach in order to prepare better for competitions across all levels. This approach needs to be strengthened by undivided support from campus and college management as it will allow students to participate with the assurance that their performance is highly regarded and taken seriously. This will pave the way for competing against counterparts on equal footing in future.