

Farewell

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL, MS MARYNA MARAIS

I wish to thank each and every one of you for all your energy and wonderful efforts for a successful 2017. We have made a difference by being different than the average college. With the holidays upon us and 2017 drawing to a close, it's a great time to look back at this unforgettable year; a year in which many of our strategic objectives were achieved but most importantly, the strategic objective, increased student performance, was achieved.

During our 14 year history as a college, we have experienced, and successfully navigated through several periods of change in the TVET College sector. And although we are not immune from the sector-related challenges such as funding, relevancy of curriculum that informs our PQM, lecturer development, articulation, student performance and credibility of examinations, my confidence in our College and in all of our employees has never been greater. We are making a profound social impact in the communities we serve and will continue to do so today and into the future.

ORBIT College has weathered many different types of storms. But our brand has never been stronger or more relevant. Our pursuit of excellence has never been more robust.

Taking the socio-economic environment and high levels of unemployment of young people into consideration, our students are likely to experience an increased level of anxiety and concern. Please recognise this and, as you always have, remember that our success is not an entitlement, but something we need to earn, every day. Let's be very sensitive to the pressures our students may be feeling, and do everything we can to individually and collectively exceed their expectations.

What we have built over the past 14 years will enable us to positively manage through any future challenging environment just as we have positively navigated through challenging moments in the past. The experience we deliver

to our students, the strength of the ORBIT brand, and the primary reason for our current and future success is because of a **COMMITTED TEAM!**

Together we have reached new heights. I am immensely proud of the work that the ORBIT Family is doing to make us a force for good in the TVET College sector, both through living the ORBIT College values in our daily work and by making a difference in touching thousands of young people's lives.

As I will be retiring I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the DHET, Council, staff members, students community members and Business partners for the support given to me and the opportunity afforded to me to develop my skills and competencies and to serve the young people of our country for 44 years!

The words of John F Kennedy are very true and applicable: "Leadership and Learning are indispensable to each other". It is through opportunities provided to me through being the Principal of ORBIT College that I could grow as a person and become a leader in the TVET College sector.

I am proud to say that the critical skills needs and the advancement of the socio-economical spheres of our country were my personal driving factors to go the extra mile on a 24/7 basis to serve the needs of my country in general and specifically the community in which I worked. ORBIT College, its people and its communities will forever live in my heart!

I will retire with fond memories of my career of 44 years in Education and 14 years at ORBIT College and is looking forward with excitement that the goal of creating a skilled and capable workforce for our country will be realised by the Department over the years to come.



Ms Maryna Marais
ORBIT College Principal

The incoming Principal is fortunate to come to an environment where the College is governed and managed with wisdom, professionalism, a sound understanding of the role of governance vs management and where personal agendas are not the norm but that everything is done in the best interest of the College and the young people it serves!

I wish the Council, the incoming Principal, staff and students everything of the best in pursuit of making ORBIT College the best college in South Africa

I wish all of you a very blessed festive season and you can enjoy the break with the knowledge that you've done something great for our young people in 2017 and this is a powerful reward — one which I hope you feel during the holiday season and throughout the year. There's nothing else quite like the feeling of giving and making a difference!

M MARYNA MARAIS
PRINCIPAL

Short trip down memory lane...

