



ODYSSEY

“RECORDING THE ORBIT JOURNEY”

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ORBIT COLLEGE RECEIVES W&R SETA AWARD

By Molefe Molefe - Financial Aid Officer

EDITORIAL

TVET COLLEGES— SHAPING THE FUTURE AS INSTITUTIONS OF CHOICE

As we wrap up this final edition of The Odyssey, we invite you to join us in reflecting on an incredible journey of growth, innovation, and learning at ORBIT TVET College throughout the last quarter of 2024. All the contributions in this edition focus on innovation, showcasing how it has shaped the plans, initiatives, and projects undertaken by the College. Whether big or small, these initiatives are all aimed at preparing our students to become future-ready individuals who can thrive in an ever-changing world.

ORBIT College’s growing global presence and expanding partnership base is exemplified by our inclusion in the Beijing Polytechnic agreement. It is opportunities like these that equip our students to succeed in an increasingly interconnected society. Yet, while ground-breaking efforts like these make a significant impact on our students, the saying that “charity begins at home” remains undeniably true.

By providing opportunities for students to grow academically, personally, socially, and as leaders, ORBIT College staff showcase their commitment to producing well-rounded individuals who can make meaningful contributions to our country’s economy and social well-being.

As we close this chapter, we salute all students, staff, and stakeholders for your dedication and commitment throughout the year. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a blessed holiday season. Here’s to more successes and growth in 2025! Enjoy the read!

The editorial team



Pictured above fltr: Mr M Molefe-ORBIT College bursary administrator, Mr D Mokoena- College principal, Ms N Rakhudu and Dr J Viljoen- Deputy Principal Innovation and Development proudly displaying the 2024 W & R SETA award for performance excellence in administration of bursaries, learnerships & internships

The W&R SETA award issued to ORBIT TVET College is a moment of immense pride for the institution, as it highlights the College’s unwavering dedication to service excellence and its impactful role in transforming lives.

This prestigious recognition, conferred by the Wholesale and Retail Sector Education and Training Authority (W&RSETA), celebrates ORBIT TVET College’s outstanding performance in the administration of bursaries, learnerships and internships.

The commitment by the college to efficiently manage these initiatives demonstrates its focus on holistic student support and community upliftment. By ensuring that bursary funds and placement opportunities are administered responsibly and equitably, the College directly contributes to the success of its students, empowering them to realise their full potential.

W&RSETA’s acknowledgment of the dedication displayed by ORBIT staff underscores the importance of meticulous financial stewardship and the impactful results it brings.

This award is a testament to staff’s tireless work in fostering opportunities that make a tangible difference. It affirms that thoughtful and strategic administration of resources not only ensures the sustainability of such programmes but also cements the College reputation as a leader in educational excellence and community upliftment.

ORBIT TVET College remains deeply committed to continuing this legacy, ensuring that every initiative leaves a lasting, positive impact on its beneficiaries.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

ORBIT TVET COLLEGE AND BEIJING POLYTECHNIC EMBARK ON GROUND-BREAKING INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING COLLABORATION

By Dr Joe Viljoen – Deputy Principal Innovation and Development



During the Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, the South African Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Nobuhle Pamela Nkabane and the South African Minister of Small Business Development, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, led a delegation to visit BPC where the Joint Declaration on Cooperation between the Department of Higher Education and Training of the Republic of South Africa and Beijing Polytechnic College was signed. The signing of this joint declaration marks the official establishment of a partnership between the Department of Higher Education and Training of South Africa and BPC, opening a new chapter in TVET cooperation between China and South Africa.

On 23 August 2024 a milestone agreement was signed between the Government of South Africa and the Government of China, aimed at enhancing cooperation in Higher Education and Training. This historic five-year agreement paves the way for exciting opportunities at nine South African TVET Colleges, including ORBIT College, in partnership with Beijing Polytechnic - a general higher vocational college sponsored by the People's Government of Beijing Municipality. Both parties are in the process of developing an implementation plan that outlines specific activities and collaborative initiatives that will bring the agreement to life, focusing on areas that promise to advance technological expertise and environmental sustainability.

Key focus areas of collaboration

The collaboration between ORBIT TVET College and Beijing Polytechnic is structured around two major fields of innovation: Integrated Circuits (Artificial Intelligence (AI), Electronics, Telecommunications) and Bio-engineering. Each of these fields holds tremendous potential to enhance the quality of education and training at ORBIT College, while also equipping students with in-demand skills for the future.

Integrated Circuits (AI, Electronics, Telecommunications)

One of the most exciting aspects of the partnership is the focus on research collaboration between the two institutions. ORBIT TVET College is set to work closely with Beijing Polytechnic, which boasts a wealth of expertise in integrated circuits and AI applications in telecommunications. This partnership will not only foster joint research projects, but will also help ORBIT College to develop or improve programmes in electronics and telecommunications, ensuring that students are prepared for the rapidly advancing digital world.

In addition to research, AI training programmes are on the horizon. With Beijing Polytechnic's support, ORBIT could establish a suite of AI-focused courses and certifications, benefitting both students and professionals in South Africa. These short courses will enhance skills in AI, opening new doors in technology and telecommunication industries and beyond.

The partnership is also keen on building industry connections. By linking ORBIT TVET College and Beijing Polytechnic with AI and telecommunications companies in both China and South Africa, students will have access to internships, project opportunities, and even recruitment channels. This

will provide students with invaluable hands-on experience and improve employability in sectors that are experiencing exponential growth.

Bio-engineering – Pioneering sustainable practices

Beyond technology, the collaboration extends into the realm of bio-engineering, with a particular focus on biology-related technologies. This initiative emphasises the application of biological systems to address pressing environmental challenges, such as water management, waste management, pollution control, and bio-remediation.

Local governments in South Africa stand to benefit from this collaboration, as ORBIT students will gain knowledge and practical experience in sustainable practices. These innovations not only have the potential to improve environmental conditions, but will also bolster ORBIT College's role in fostering a new generation of graduates who are equipped to tackle global environmental challenges through biotechnology.

The impact on ORBIT TVET College and beyond

The partnership between ORBIT TVET College and Beijing Polytechnic promises transformative benefits for students, offering cutting-edge training, research opportunities, and industry collaborations in fields like AI and environmental biotechnology. This international collaboration strengthens the global competitiveness of both institutions' graduates, preparing them for both local and global workforce demands. With access to advanced resources and expertise from Beijing Polytechnic, ORBIT TVET College is advancing technological education and sustainability efforts.

As the 5-year agreement unfolds, the activities outlined in the implementation plan will provide continuous opportunities for growth and innovation. For ORBIT TVET College students, this means access to world-class education, research collaborations, and industry partnerships that will enhance their practical and theoretical knowledge. For both institutions, the shared commitment to vocational education and skill development signifies a brighter, more interconnected future where graduates are equipped to lead in industries critical to the modern world.

ORBIT TVET College students can look forward to being at the forefront of these developments, gaining the tools and experience needed to excel in an increasingly competitive global market.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

ORBIT COLLEGE STRENGTHENS INTERNATIONAL TIES WITH CHINESE DELEGATION

By Mariette Viljoen – ASD Marketing and Communication



The signing of the MoU between the four parties took place at Brits Campus on 11 October 2024. Seated in front (fltr) are Mr Y Zhang (Senior Vice President Nanjing Xinyada), Mr D Mokoena (Principal ORBIT College), Mr Z Botao (CEO Nanjing Zhongxing Xinyada Information Technology Co. Ltd) and Dr X Havard (Principal SA College of Business and Language). Standing at the back fltr: Ms X Zhang (Chinese Government), Mr G Mafojane (Acting Deputy Principal Corporate Services), Mr M Sebaetse (Deputy Principal Finance), Ms T Tihopile (Deputy Principal Academic and Student Support Services), Ms E Ngwato (Acting Brits Campus Manager), Mr L Heipeng (CEO Beijing Zhongye Technology Co. Ltd), Mr H Kgankenna (Brits Campus AI Coach) and Dr J Viljoen (Deputy Principal Innovation and Development).

A significant milestone was reached when a Chinese delegation, including representatives from Nanjing Zhongxing Xinyada Information Technology Co. Ltd, Beijing Zhongye Technology Co. Ltd, and the South African College of Business and Language visited ORBIT College from 10–11 October 2024. Their visit culminated in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at fostering collaboration in the dynamic field of digital education.

The MoU signifies a shared commitment to enhancing education quality, developing internationally competitive digital talents, and promoting sustainable growth in global education. The partnership focuses on resource sharing, academic exchanges, professional development, and setting international standards in various technology-driven fields such as:

- Electronics and Information Technology
- Computer Technology
- Automation Technology
- Intelligent Manufacturing
- Artificial Intelligence

Objectives of the MoU

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) outlines several key objectives aimed at advancing education and industry practices. It prioritises the establishment of professional and curriculum standards certified by the education departments of South Africa and China, ensuring alignment with international benchmarks. A focus on talent training seeks to develop “Chinese + vocational skills” programmes for students and professionals in technology-related fields. Resource development is another critical goal, with plans to jointly create teaching materials and digital practical training platforms for immersive learning experiences. The MoU also emphasises the fostering of cross-cultural academic growth through exchange programmes involving students, graduates, teachers, and lecturers from both countries. To further global engagement, the agreement includes hosting international conferences, forums, exhibitions, and skills competitions to advance vocational and higher education. Lastly, it envisions digital transformation through the development of a 5G-enabled digital learning management platform to optimise teaching, learning, and evaluation processes.

Highlights of the visit

The Chinese delegation had the opportunity to experience South Africa’s renowned hospitality with a visit to Sun City before touring ORBIT TVET College Brits Campus. They explored the cutting-edge AI Lab, the CHIETA SMART Centre and the Electrical Centre of Specialisation (CoS), showcasing the College’s commitment to innovation and advanced technical training.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was officially signed by key representatives, including Mr D Mokoena, Principal of ORBIT College; Dr X Havard, Principal of the South African College of Business and Language; Mr Z Botao, CEO of Nanjing Zhongxing Xinyada Information Technology Co. Ltd; and Mr L Haipeng, CEO of Beijing Zhongye Technology Co. Ltd.

A step towards global excellence

This partnership represents a bold step towards cultivating international collaboration and excellence in digital education. The MoU promises to shape the future of education by blending innovation, expertise, and shared vision between South Africa and China. ORBIT College looks forward to the opportunities this collaboration will unlock for its students, staff, and the broader educational community.

Merry Christmas...

Merry Christmas...

THE BIGGER PICTURE

REFLECTING ON A YEAR OF GROWTH, RESILIENCE, AND COLLABORATION: MESSAGE BY THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL ACADEMIC AND STUDENT SUPPORT *By Tebogo Tlhopile - Deputy Principal: Academic and Student Support*



Ms Tlhopile
Deputy Principal: Academic & Student Support

Dear Colleagues, students and staff,

As we reach the end of this year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the journey we've taken together and express my gratitude to each of you for your contributions. This has been a year of learning, growth, and innovation, and I am filled with a profound sense of pride in what we have achieved as a college community.

Reflecting on this year's programmes/activities, the Wellness Peer Mentorship (WPM) and Peer Academic Leadership (PAL) annual review highlighted significant insights. Our students have been candid about the challenges they have faced, from academic pressures to the unique demands of a technologically integrated curriculum. They have shared solutions rooted in the need for stronger mental health support, increased peer networks, and additional academic resources. It has been inspiring to witness their resilience and creativity, and I am committed to addressing these needs as we move forward. Together, we are creating an inclusive environment where students feel heard, valued, and equipped to thrive.

The book review event at Hunters Rest Anew Hotel on 3 October 2024 was another highlight of our year. This gathering was a reminder of the importance of cultivating intellectual curiosity and engaging with diverse perspectives. Both students and staff engaged deeply with the literature, and the discussions that emerged were truly insightful. It is through events like these that we foster not just academic growth, but also a spirit of community and shared understanding.

I want to thank each of you for the trust and support you have shown throughout the year. I am especially grateful to those of you who have embraced new roles, new methods, and new technologies with such dedication. The progress we have made, reflects the collective commitment to excellence that defines our institution. Together, we are preparing our students for a world that is constantly evolving, and it is a privilege to share this journey with all of you.

Thank you for an incredible year. I look forward to what we will accomplish together in the future.

Warm regards
Ms Tebogo Tlhopile
Deputy Principal: Academic & Student Support Services

DRIVING EXCELLENCE THROUGH INNOVATION: A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT *By Dr Joe Viljoen - Deputy Principal: Innovation and Development*



Dr J Viljoen
Deputy Principal: Innovation and Development

Greetings to the ORBIT TVET College community,

As the newly appointed Deputy Principal responsible for Innovation and Development, I am thrilled to share with you some of the exciting recent developments and plans that aim to further strengthen and modernise our college.

Embracing digital innovation

One of our key focuses has been to improve our marketing and communication strategies. We are pleased to announce a significant upgrade to our college website, introducing a new pop-up 'Chat-Bot' feature. This digital tool enhances our client orientation and allows us to engage with our community more effectively, answering questions and guiding users in real time.

Additionally, our Marketing and Communications Unit has spearheaded an innovative project to set up a soundproof recording studio at the Central Office. Equipped with cutting-edge technology, this studio will allow for professional photography, interviews and recordings, further enhancing our ability to communicate with stakeholders and share the incredible work happening at our college.

Fostering industry partnerships and expanding opportunities

We are actively working on building strategic partnerships with industry and other educational institutions to not only improve our Programme Qualification Mix (PQM) but also expand real-world opportunities for both staff and students. These collaborations are designed to enhance our curriculum and ensure that our graduates are industry-ready through exposure to practical, hands-on learning experiences.

A key part of this initiative has been the successful placement of our students in Work Integrated Learning (WIL) opportunities. These placements bridge the gap between theory and practice, giving our students invaluable experience that will serve them well as they enter the workforce.

Historic international collaboration

Another exciting development is our participation in a milestone agreement signed between the governments of South Africa and China. This historic 5-year agreement focuses on enhancing cooperation in Higher Education and Training, with Beijing Polytechnic as a key partner. Through this collaboration, ORBIT TVET College will benefit from advancements in technological expertise and environmental sustainability, further positioning our college at the forefront of innovation.

Leading the 4IR with a new telecommunication system

We are also embarking on the implementation of the latest telecommunication system across all sites of the college. This technologically advanced system will enable ORBIT TVET College to remain at the forefront of communication technologies, fully embracing the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR)

THE BIGGER PICTURE

at all levels. By modernising our communication infrastructure, we are ensuring that we meet the demands of a digitally connected future, enhancing our operational efficiency and improving our ability to serve our community. We expect implementation to be finalised early in 2025.

Student success and financial support

We are proud to report that up to the end of October 2024, 5 650 of our students have been awarded NSFAS bursaries for intakes 1 to 3 and that 21 of our students received other bursaries. This financial support is crucial in allowing our students to focus on their education without the added stress of financial constraints.

Our campuses have completed the enrolment process for intake 1 (NCV, S1, and T1), intake 2 (S2 and T2), and intake 3 (T3). We are pleased to announce that we have met 98% of our enrolment targets for 2024, welcoming a diverse group of enthusiastic students.

Strategic planning and the future

Looking ahead, we have completed and submitted our 2025-2029 Strategic Plan to the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) for approval. This plan, along with our Operational Plan, Annual Performance Plan, and Funding Grid process, will guide our growth and development in the coming years. These plans ensure that we continue to provide high-quality vocational and occupational education to our community.

The student enrolment process for 2025 is already underway, with new developments in our Business Management System (BMS) Student Sub-system now being implemented through automated SMS notifications to applicants regarding their application status. This enhancement will significantly improve communication with students during the enrolment process.

Lastly, we are close to completing our 2024 Maturity Model (MM) self-evaluation, which is testament of our commitment to continuous improvement and quality assurance. This model helps us ensure that our systems, processes, and policies remain student-centred and focused on self-improvement.

Our BMS key users are also working to further optimise their sub-systems to streamline operations, improve reporting, and enhance service delivery across the college. This system has been an invaluable resource in managing our processes more efficiently.

A bright future for ORBIT TVET College

As we continue to innovate and develop, our focus remains firmly on the success of our students and staff. Together, we will work to make ORBIT TVET College a beacon of excellence in vocational and occupational education in our region.

Thank you for your continued support as we move forward on this exciting journey.

Dr Joe Viljoen

Deputy Principal: Innovation and Development

DHET DEPUTY MINISTER, DR M GONDWE CONDUCTS EXECUTIVE OVERSIGHT VISIT TO ORBIT TVET COLLEGE BRITS CAMPUS

By Reuben Marakalala – Senior Marketing and Communication Officer



Fltr: Mr D Mokoena (College Principal), Prof. M Mokgatle (Interim deputy chairperson of College Council), Dr M Gondwe (Deputy Minister of Higher Education), Dr N Balkrishen (Regional Manager) and Mr M Kali (Head of DM Office) during the oversight visit

On 21 October 2024, Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Mimmy Gondwe, visited ORBIT TVET College Brits Campus as part of her oversight responsibilities. She was warmly welcomed by a delegation of the College Acting Campus Manager Ms Ethel Ngwato, College Principal, Mr Dika Mokoena, and Interim Deputy Chairperson of the College Council, Prof. Mathildah Mokgatle and Dr Nick Balkrishen, Regional Manager TVET & CET Colleges- NW Province and Mpumalanga.

The purpose of the visit was to gain first-hand insight into College challenges, successes, and areas for improvement. During an overview presentation, Mr Mokoena highlighted the college's flagship initiatives, including the CHIETA Smart Skills Centre, the AI Labs, and the success of the ORBIT FC.

In her engagements with the campus community, Dr Gondwe emphasised the importance of strengthening partnerships for student placements and encouraged the College to advocate permanent employment opportunities for graduates. She further advised the College to implement strategies to support students in establishing their own businesses, helping to address the high

national youth unemployment rate.

The visit concluded with a campus tour, allowing Dr Gondwe to experience the state-of-the-art facilities, such as the engineering workshops, the CHIETA Smart Skills Centre, the AI labs, and simulation facilities. A highlight of the visit was the Deputy Minister's recognition of two students, Katlego Sebjane and Kenosi Rakhalane, from the Elevate AI Innovation Hub at Brits Campus. The duo received special commendation for their innovative sign language-to-text system, which recently earned a prestigious presidential award in Tanzania. Dr Gondwe's visit reinforced the College's commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and preparing students for a dynamic future.

Merry Christmas...

Merry Christmas...

THE BIGGER PICTURE

ORBIT TVET COLLEGE STUDENTS WIN PRESTIGIOUS AFRICAN ELEVATE COMPETITION WITH INNOVATIVE SIGN LANGUAGE APP

By Reuben Marakalala – Senior Marketing and Communication Officer



Left to right: College Principal, Mr Dika Mokoena, Ms Kenosi Rakhalane, DHET Deputy Minister, Dr Mimmi Gondwe, Ms Katlego Sebejane, and AI Coach, Mr Harry Kgangkenna

On 17 October 2024, two students from ORBIT TVET College, Brits Campus, Katlego Sebejane and Kenosi Rakhalane, achieved a remarkable milestone by winning the African Elevate Competition, an online event hosted in Tanzania. The competition, aimed at showcasing technological innovation across the continent, saw the duo develop a ground breaking app that converts sign language into written text, bridging communication gaps between the deaf community and those unfamiliar with sign language.

Their innovative app earned them the top prize in the Presidential Award category, a prestigious recognition in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The award, delivered to ORBIT TVET College via the South African Embassy in Tanzania, celebrates their contribution to promoting inclusivity through technology.

On 21 October 2024, the Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Mimmi Gondwe honoured the students by presenting the award during her executive oversight visit to Brits Campus. Dr Gondwe praised their achievement, stating, "This award is a testament to how skills in fields like AI, robotics, and coding are shaping the future. It's especially encouraging to see young women excelling in these fields."

The accomplishment of Sebejane and Rakhalane highlights the growing importance of AI in addressing societal challenges and reflects ORBIT TVET College's commitment to fostering innovation and skills development among its students

ORBIT COLLEGE AI STUDENTS SHINE ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE

By Harry Kgangkenna – AI Coach Brits Campus



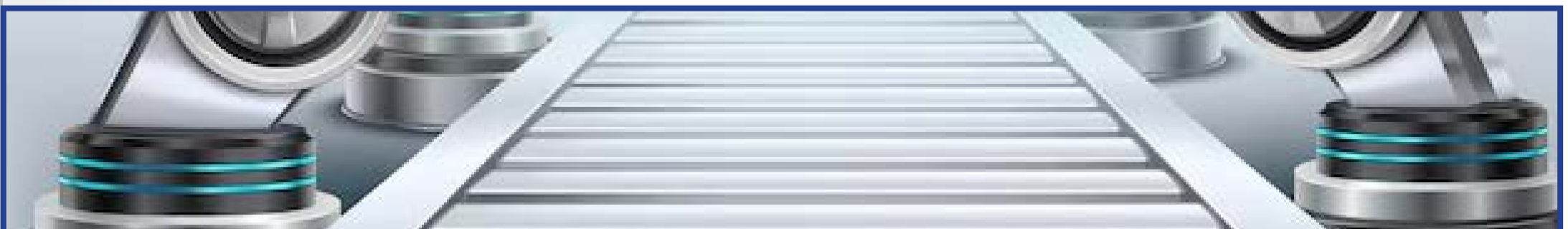
Flr: Lemogang Kau, Kevin Selaolwe and Onkgopotse Phetlhe did ORBIT College proud by clinching the award as regional winners at this year's AI Global Impact Festival

Our AI students have once again raised the College profile on the global stage! ORBIT College was awarded the Intel AI Project Award for the South African Region in the AI Changemakers (13–18 years) category at the prestigious 2024 AI Global Impact Festival.

This remarkable achievement reflects the hard work, dedication, and innovation by Lemogang Kau, Onkgopotse Phetlhe, and Kevin Selaolwe in presenting their Smart Home project in the ever-changing field of artificial intelligence.

Their success not only brings immense pride to the institution but also sets an inspiring benchmark for future AI initiatives at the College.

This accomplishment underscores the potential of ORBIT TVET College to foster talent and innovation that can make a lasting impact both locally and globally.



Merry Christmas...

Merry Christmas...

ACADEMIC MATTERS

EMPOWERING EDUCATION: INNOVATIONS AND MILESTONES IN TEACHING, LEARNING, AND RESEARCH AT ORBIT TVET COLLEGE *By Phineas Nkau - ASD Curriculum Implementation*



Mr P Nkau
ASD Curriculum Implementation

In a world where industry demands are rapidly evolving, the College Academic Unit is dedicated to equipping students with relevant, future-ready skills. Through innovative teaching strategies, performance improvement programmes, and research-driven initiatives, we aim to enhance the learning experience and support student success. Our lecturers are adopting modern approaches like digital and multimedia resources to bring lessons to life, while targeted revision sessions help solidify foundational skills. Additionally, our staff actively engages in research and professional development, contributing valuable insights to the vocational education field. This commitment to excellence reflects our mission to empower students, prepare them for diverse career pathways, and meet the ever-changing needs of today's workforce.

Lecturing staff members shine at 2024 International Conference on TVET

The International Conference on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ICTVET), held from 25-27 September 2024 in Cape Town, brought together global stakeholders to discuss transforming TVET systems for a digital and sustainable future. Hosted by UNISA and supported by SAPCO and UNESCO, the conference focused on equipping youth with skills for employment and entrepreneurship. Key topics included adapting to the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), fostering inclusivity for vulnerable groups, and integrating sustainability into vocational training. Participants shared best practices and strategies for training TVET lecturers in essential skills like ICT and problem-solving to better prepare students for evolving labour market demands. Emphasising collaboration between lecturers, policymakers, and industry leaders, the event underscored the importance of aligning TVET programmes with changing job profiles and sustainable development goals. This platform highlighted the critical role of TVET in shaping future-ready, inclusive educational systems.

At this conference, selected ORBIT TVET College staff members who are part of the ETDP SETA and UNISA PhD development programme showcased their ongoing research and findings. These dedicated lecturers, committed to advancing vocational education, presented insights from their master's dissertations and ongoing PhD projects, shedding light on emerging trends and challenges within the field. Their work covers critical areas, including digital skills integration, curriculum development for employability, and strategies for enhancing inclusivity in TVET. This opportunity allowed them to share real-world data, methodologies, and best practices, while engaging with an international audience of academics, policymakers, and industry experts. The presentations highlighted the role of research in bridging skills gaps and supporting sustainable development in the vocational sector, reinforcing the importance of academic contributions to policy and practice within the rapidly evolving landscape of technical and vocational education. We would like to congratulate Ms Ethel Ngwato (Acting Brits Campus Manager), Mr Eric Steenkamp (Brits Campus Senior Lecturer), Ms Petricia Kasita (Brits Campus Lecturer), Ms Sina Lenyai (Brits Campus Lecturer) and Ms Dorothy Nthako (Brits Campus HoD) on this significant milestone in their academic journey. We look forward to their PhD graduations, and to adjusting their titles from Mr and Ms to Dr - all of the best.



Filtr: Mr E Steenkamp (Brits Campus Senior Lecturer), Ms E Ngwato (Acting Brits Campus Manager), Ms P Kasita (Brits Campus Lecturer), Ms S Lenyai (Brits Campus Lecturer) and Ms D Nthako (Brits Campus HoD) at the 2024 International Conference on TVET hosted in Cape Town

Performance improvement initiative: centralised maths revision workshop

During the weeks preceding every final examination of every academic cycle, the Academic Unit undertakes Structured Revision Programmes (SRP). These SRPs offer a structured and targeted approach to revision, enabling lecturers and students to concentrate on strengthening essential subject content and ensuring students are well-prepared for their final examinations. Following a study of the troubled pass rates for Mathematics L3 and L4 over a number of years, the Academic Unit sought to expand on the SRP idea in 2024 by hosting centralised maths revision workshops. This approach brought together all Mathematics Level 3 and Level 4 students from across the college campuses for a three-day revision workshop held at the Rustenburg Campus, facilitated by a team of college of mathematics lecturers.

Focusing on key topics and exam-oriented problem-solving techniques, these workshops are designed to boost understanding and retention. Students gather in collaborative revision sessions led by skilled lecturers who reinforce fundamental concepts, introduce strategic methods for tackling complex problems, and guide students through mock exams to improve time management. The interactive nature of these sessions encourages students to discuss questions, clarify doubts, and learn from each other's approaches. By providing a structured, supportive environment, these workshops aim to close learning gaps and ensure that each student is better prepared for their examinations.



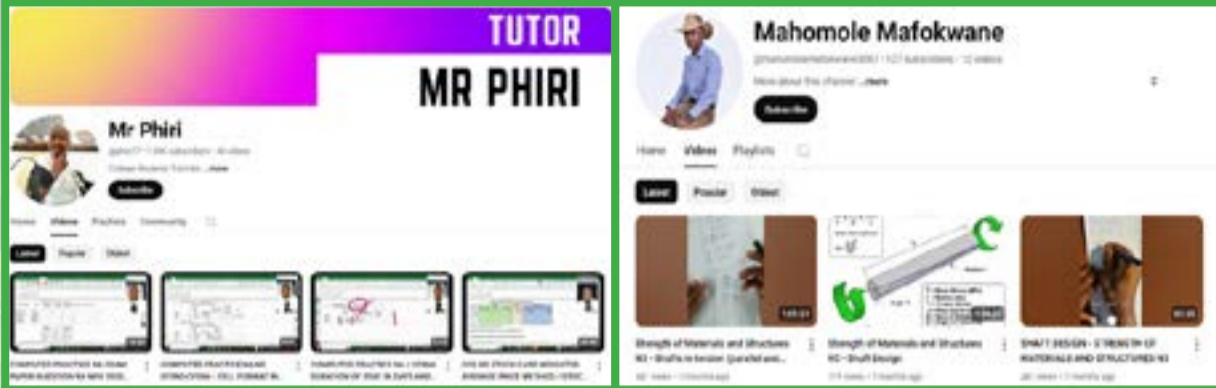
Picture 1: far left
The team of skilled ORBIT College mathematics lecturers responsible for guiding and supporting students as they prepare for their final examinations during the centralised mathematics workshops held at Rustenburg Campus

Picture 2:right
Mathematics Level 3 and Level 4 students from all sites gathered at Rustenburg Campus for three days to prepare for their final examinations

ACADEMIC MATTERS

Lecturing going the extra mile teaching students how they learn

In today's digital age, YouTube has become an invaluable teaching tool, allowing our lecturers to "go the extra, extra mile" in supporting student learning. By creating and curating video content, our lecturers provide students with easy-to-access resources that extend beyond the classroom. Lessons and tutorials are available on-demand, giving students the flexibility to review difficult concepts, practise new skills, or prepare for exams at their own pace. This multimedia approach brings subjects to life with video demonstrations, animations, and step-by-step walkthroughs that make complex topics easier to grasp. Through this initiative, we not only enhance engagement but also build digital literacy, empowering students to make the most of online resources as part of their academic journey.



Snapshots of Mr K Phiri's (left) and Mr M Mafokwane's (right) engaging tutorials on YouTube that encourage students to interact with subject content in a meaningful way

Two lecturers in particular, Mr Kele Phiri (Business Studies lecturer) and Mr Mahomole Mafokwane (Engineering Studies lecturer), have consistently embraced YouTube as an interactive teaching tool. Known for their engaging videos, they guide students through complex material in a clear, accessible format. Their tutorials are thoughtfully crafted to address students' common challenges, making difficult subjects more approachable. Their dedication to providing high-quality, tailored content ensures that students have additional support at every step of their learning journey. Mr Phiri's videos have garnered over 100 000 views, reaching not only the college's students, but also students across the country and a substantial audience from other African nations. By encouraging students to interact with their content and seek clarity where needed, these lecturers truly exemplify the spirit of innovative, student-centred teaching and learning.

Looking ahead to 2025

As we look towards 2025, the Academic Unit is committed to further advancing our teaching and learning practices, ensuring that we remain at the forefront of technical and vocational training. Plans are underway to expand digital learning resources, integrate new technologies into the curriculum, and introduce additional professional development programmes for both staff and students. As we continue to strengthen industry partnerships, we aim to better align our offerings with market needs, ensuring that our graduates are well-equipped for the demands of the workforce. Additionally, we plan to introduce new initiatives aimed at fostering entrepreneurship, critical thinking, and innovation. By investing in these plans, we are excited to build on the progress made so far and create an even more dynamic and inclusive learning environment in the coming year.

RUSTENBURG CAMPUS LEADS THE WAY IN AI INNOVATION AND 4IR EXCELLENCE

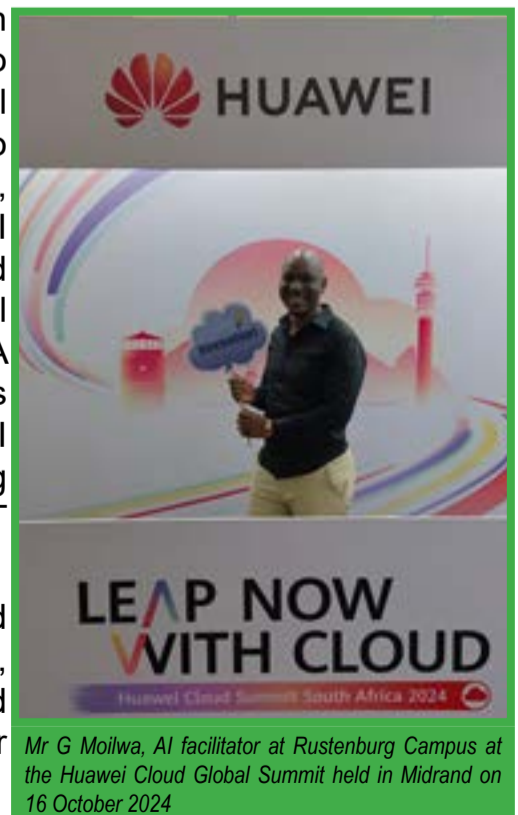
By Tania Lowings - HoD Fundamentals Rustenburg Campus



On 24 October, the Huawei team visited Rustenburg Campus as part of the Smart Campus Initiative. Pictured here (l-r): Ms T Mpoae (General Academic Clerk), Mr G Moilwa (AI facilitator Rustenburg Campus), Ms L Peyper (Student Support Officer), Mr GK Taukobong (ICT Technician), Ms T Segopolo (Huawei Project Manager Gauteng Region), Ms B Kgaboesele (Rustenburg Campus Manager), Mr J Munetsi (Senior Lecturer ICT), Mr GZ Paco (Talent Development Manager) and Mr WH Hunter (Huawei Solution Manager Gauteng Region)

ORBIT TVET College Rustenburg Campus is making impressive strides in their AI Programme. To date, 14 students have enrolled for the programme, demonstrating a strong commitment to developing critical skills for the future workforce. Under the guidance of facilitator, Mr Godfrey Moilwa, these students have been actively involved in hands-on learning, positioning the campus as a leader in AI education among TVET institutions, following in the footsteps of Brits Campus.

Recently, Mr Moilwa, along with key representatives, Ms Tebogo Tihopile (Deputy Principal Academic), Ms Ethel Ngwato (Acting Brits Campus Manager), and Mr Harry Kgankenna (AI facilitator at Brits), attended the Huawei Cloud Global Summit 2024 and MICT SETA 4IR Symposium. These events offered insights into the latest AI and 4IR innovations, equipping



Mr G Moilwa, AI facilitator at Rustenburg Campus at the Huawei Cloud Global Summit held in Midrand on 16 October 2024

the team with knowledge and resources to enhance the learning experience for ORBIT COLLEGE TVET students.

The AI students at Rustenburg Campus have already completed six remarkable projects, including a hand gesture-controlled mouse, a QR code system for asset management, and a security alarm. These projects, which may be entered in upcoming competitions, showcase the practical applications of AI skills acquired by the students. Additionally, the students have registered for the 2025 World Skills competition, further demonstrating their dedication and potential.

Rustenburg Campus has also welcomed a visit from Huawei's team, as part of the Smart Campus initiative.

This partnership aims to integrate advanced technology and resources, supporting the Rustenburg Campus' vision of becoming a leader in technology-driven education.

ACADEMIC MATTERS

ORBIT ROLLS OUT PHASE III OF THE NATIONAL SKILLS FUND (NSF) PROJECT

By Joseph Sengooba – NSF Project Manager



Mr J Sengooba
NSF Project Manager

The National Skills Fund (NSF) has entered its third phase with the launch of the TVET Capacity Building and Occupational Programmes Project at ORBIT College. The project's kick-off meeting took place in July 2024 and brought together key stakeholders from across all College sites. Attendees included the Principal, Deputy Principals, ASD Curriculum Implementation, Campus Managers, and Heads of Departments for Artisan Development and Partnerships.

Project scope and objectives

The NSF Project focuses on four main areas designed to address skills shortages and promote capacity building:

1. Apprenticeships in Diesel Mechanics and Electrician trades.
2. Learnerships in a variety of programmes, including Early Childhood Development (ECD), Community Development, Automotive Repair, Clutch Brake and Repair, Freight Handling, Beauty Therapy, Nail Technology, and Hairdressing.
3. Work Integrated Learning (WIL) for experiential training.
4. Workshop Refurbishment for practical training in Spray-Painting and Plumbing.

The project aims to benefit a total of 237 individuals through apprenticeships, learnerships, and WIL programmes over three years. To date, 102 beneficiaries have already been enrolled across these programmes, with the remaining 135 set to join during the project's duration.

Empowering beneficiaries in Bojanala District

At the heart of the NSF Project at ORBIT College, Phase III seeks to empower beneficiaries from the Bojanala District region with employment skills as well as opportunities to become entrepreneurs in their respective fields of study. At its core. This aligns with the NSF's vision, as emphasised in the NSF Strategic Plan 2020–2025. In his executive statement, former Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande, remarked:



Pictured above are N6 Electrical Engineering students who completed their theory studies undergoing on-the-job training in the workshop of the host employer (Electro Diesel Group). They are enrolled in the Work Integrated Learnership (WIL) Programme for a period of 24 months required to obtain their National N Diploma. A total of 25 Engineering Studies learners joined the programme in Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering. Another group of 30 Business Studies learners are also enrolled on the programme and will obtain practical experience with mentors for eighteen months.

"The NSF fulfils a key role in realising South Africa's aspirations of an inclusive economy as envisaged by the National Development Plan (NDP)."

The project further reflects government priorities by fostering a workforce responsive to the country's national skills demands.

Artisan development: a national priority

Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mr Buti Manamela, has highlighted South Africa's critical shortage of qualified artisans, which poses challenges for sustaining industries and supporting economic growth. He affirmed:

"The DHET has identified artisan development as one of the priority areas for skills development."

Through the NSF Project, ORBIT College is contributing to this national priority by training skilled professionals in high-demand trades.

Project Implementation

The mandate of the National Skills Fund, among others, is to fund projects identified in the National Skills Development Strategy (NSDS) and projects related to the achievement of the Skills Development Act purposes. At ORBIT College, Phase III of the project will be managed by Mr Joseph Sengooba and Mr Siphosiso Mabusela, who lead the NSF Project Management Unit.

The NSF Project at ORBIT College exemplifies the vital role TVET institutions play in addressing South Africa's skills development challenges. By empowering beneficiaries with industry-relevant skills, the project not only supports economic growth, but also fosters pathways to employment and entrepreneurship, ultimately contributing to the nation's vision of an inclusive and sustainable economy.

HR MATTERS

FROM THE HR MANAGER'S DESK

By Gilbert Mafojane – ASD Human Resource Management & Development



Mr G Mafojane
ASD Human Resource Management & Development

As we near the end of 2024, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the HR team for their unwavering support, dedication, teamwork, and commitment throughout this performance cycle. Your tireless efforts have been instrumental in maintaining labour peace and stability across the College.

Despite critical vacancies in key roles such as Senior Labour Relations Officer, Human Resource Development Practitioner, and Wellness Practitioner, the HR team consistently met its responsibilities with excellence. To empower staff and clarify HR-related matters, the unit hosted workshops addressing conditions of service, including housing allowances and medical aid benefits.

Welcoming new appointments

We are delighted to announce the following colleagues who have been appointed to vacant posts. Congratulations to our new appointees! We are confident that your contributions will enhance both the academic and administrative excellence of ORBIT College.

Name	Employment type	Appointment date	Designation	Site/Campus
Viljoen JCH (Dr)	Permanent	01/09/2024	Deputy Principal: Innovation and Development	Central Office
Mafojane GM	Fixed-term	01/08/2024	Acting Deputy Principal: Corporate Management	Central Office
Molapi W	Permanent	01/11/2024	Campus Manager	Mankwe Campus
Seemola ML	Permanent	01/09/2024	IT Technician	Mankwe Campus
Taukobong GK	Permanent	01/09/2023	IT Technician	Rustenburg Campus
Sengooba JK	Permanent	01/09/2024	NSF Project Manager	Central Office
Mabusela S	Permanent	01/09/2024	NSF Administrator	Central Office
Lekaota L	Permanent	01/11/2024	Lecturer: Business Studies	Mankwe Campus

Human resource development

We wish all employees writing their final examinations the best of luck. Your dedication to acquiring professional and academic qualifications is commendable, and we look forward to the positive impact your achievements will have on the College. Special recognition goes to staff members pursuing postgraduate qualifications to enhance their career prospects and remuneration.

The College continues to invest in staff development, providing bursaries to both academic and support staff. During the 2024 second semester, the HRD Unit processed five bursary applications amounting to R167,595, in addition to R200,000 secured from ETDP SETA. Furthermore, R540,000 from MQA funded ten lecturers pursuing advanced academic qualifications, supplementing support provided to 30 academic staff already funded. All MQA-supported lecturers will receive funding through to PhD level. The College has thus far awarded bursaries totalling R398,595.

Staff training and workshops

The College managed to train seventeen supervisors/managers on Labour Relations. The workshop was led by Ms K Tloale, a former Brits Campus student and now Senior Labour Relations Officer at the Department of Health. Her exceptional presentation exemplified the high standards of ORBIT College alumni.

PMDS updates

The central moderation process for 2024 was finalised in September, and the HR team is now verifying submissions and preparing retrospective payments for pay progressions. Midterm reviews are on track for completion by December 2024.

As we approach the festive season, I wish you all a safe and joyous holiday. May the coming year bring continued success and abundant blessings.

COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS

CENTRE FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP RAPID INCUBATOR HIGHLIGHTS 2024

By Nthabiseng Mosala – CfERI Marketing Admin Officer

EMPOWERING YOUTH THROUGH THE JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT SOCIAL EQUITY PROGRAMME

Motlhabe Village in Moses Kotane Local Municipality became a hub of inspiration and learning as Junior Achievement South Africa (JA South Africa), in partnership with the Z Zurich Foundation and the Ngangezwe Foundation, conducted a transformative Social Equity Programme. Held from August 5 to August 9, 2024, the initiative equipped unemployed youth aged 18 to 35 with essential entrepreneurial and job-readiness skills.

Building skills for financial independence and community change

The programme, offered free of charge, called for participants to invest only their time and effort. Over four days, youth gathered at the Motlhabe Village Community Hall to cultivate a mindset and skill set to achieve financial independence and drive meaningful change in their communities. The highlight of the programme came on the final day, as participants pitched their innovative product ideas to a panel of judges. Three winning teams were selected to advance to the national level, receiving additional mentorship to refine their concepts.

ORBIT TVET College CfERI played an integral role by implementing a tailored incubation programme for the top three teams. Post-programme, the centre provided motivational support and guidance to help participants navigate their entrepreneurial journey.

Programme structure

Each day of the Social Equity Programme was packed with learning and interactive sessions:

Day 1 (August 5): Orientation and team-building activities focused on cultivating a positive entrepreneurial mindset and identifying local economic challenges. Groups established companies to address these challenges.

Day 2 (August 6): Participants developed success skills, financial management strategies, and began design thinking processes. They also explored JA South Africa's Digital Enterprise Education Programme (JA DEEP).

Day 3 (August 8): The focus shifted to creating lean business models, project management, and pitch preparation. Groups finalized their business ideas and practiced their presentations.

Day 4 (August 9): Teams completed the JA DEEP programme and presented their final pitches. Judges selected the top three teams, followed by the award ceremony and certificate handovers.



The Social Equity Programme was offered as a four-day event at Motlhabe Village Community Hall with each of the workshops accommodating up to 100+ unemployed youth between 18-35 years old

What lies ahead

The top three teams will now embark on a three-month virtual mentorship programme facilitated by the Z Zurich Foundation, exposing them to global entrepreneurial opportunities. Meanwhile, other participants will receive support from stakeholders to help with business registration, compliance, and funding applications.

Future mentorship and training sessions will cover topics such as:

- Mental wellness and personal development
- Leadership and design thinking
- Marketing and branding, including digital marketing
- Financial management and business goal setting
- Project management and job readiness

A step towards empowered communities

The Junior Achievement Social Equity Programme is a testament to the power of collaboration and investment in youth potential. By providing young people with tools for success, this initiative is not just about personal growth but also about fostering economic development and social impact in local communities.

ORBIT TVET College and Cherubs Holdings launch anti-vaping campaign



Pictured above is Nurse Ingrid Matobe Pitso from Cherubs Holdings during the anti-vaping campaign held by ORBIT College CfERI and Cherbus Holdings as a joint venture at Rustenburg Campus to empower College students with knowledge to make informed healthier lifestyle choices

On 12 September 2024, ORBIT TVET College CfERI and Cherubs Holdings launched a ground-breaking anti-vaping campaign at Rustenburg Campus, educating young people and empowering them to make healthier lifestyle choices. With vaping increasingly marketed as a “safer alternative” to smoking, the campaign seeks to dispel myths and highlight the serious health risks associated with it, including addiction and its harmful effects on the brain, lungs, and heart. The campaign is also aimed at offering practical guidance on how to quit vaping.

The campaign reaches a broad demographic, including high school learners, college students, young adults in the workplace, teachers and youth in church communities. In order to achieve its goals, the campaign employs a multifaceted strategy comprising interactive group presentations, engaging sessions and collaborative partnerships with local health organisations to enhance credibility. By investing time and effort in this campaign, ORBIT TVET College and Cherubs Holdings hope to foster a culture of informed decision-making about health among young people. By addressing the vaping epidemic at its roots, the campaign not only raises awareness but also empowers participants to take control of their well-being.

COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS

CFERI HIGHLIGHTS 2024 (CONTINUED)

Junior achievement South Africa: North West Provincial competition hosted at Mankwe Campus

On September 6, 2024, Junior Achievement South Africa (JA South Africa) and ORBIT TVET College Centre for Entrepreneurship Rapid Incubation (Cferi) hosted the North West Provincial Company of the Year (COY) competition at Mankwe Campus. This event marked the final step before the national competition that took place from 25-27 September 2024. The local COY competition, held on 23 August 2024, brought together five teams from five different schools in the North West Province. The competitors included learners from Moedwil, Iketletso, Khayaletso, Charora and Bakwena Secondary Schools. Each team, comprising five members, displayed their innovative business products at exhibition stalls and presented them to a panel of judges. After a series of engaging presentations and rigorous evaluations, the winning team was announced and selected to represent the North West province at the National COY competition.



Pictured here are the teams from competing schools, presenting their business products to a panel of judges

Key stakeholders, including representatives from the CfERI, Moses Kotane Local Economic Development (LED), and the North West Provincial Executive Committee, attended the virtual event to show their support for the young entrepreneurs. The COY competition is part of the broader Enterprise Plus Programme, an entrepreneurship initiative implemented by JA South Africa in partnership with EDT 91 and ABSA. This programme, offered at the participating schools, provides a comprehensive curriculum to teach learners how to start, manage, and wind down a business.

The Enterprise Plus Programme is designed to teach students sustainable business practices, financial literacy, and essential life skills. Upon completion, learners gain exposure to the fundamentals of entrepreneurship, making them more employable and equipping them to pursue their own business ventures. In addition, participants also benefit from valuable outcomes such as developing leadership skills through assigned management roles, hands-on experience in product development, market research, and financial planning, sharing profits based on their investments and receiving certificates of achievement.

The North West Provincial Company of the Year competition showcased the incredible potential of the region's young entrepreneurs. By nurturing their innovative ideas and providing them with practical business experience, the programme is empowering learners to build a brighter future for themselves and their communities.

FASA networking session empowers small businesses with franchising opportunities

ORBIT TVET College CfERI in partnership with the Franchise Association of South Africa (FASA), hosted a dynamic networking session aimed at empowering small businesses to explore franchising as a pathway to growth. Held on 13 September 2024, at the Rustenburg Campus Music Auditorium, the event brought together entrepreneurs, franchise experts, and aspiring business owners. The session provided a platform for CfERI-supported clients to delve into the world of franchising. Attendees were introduced to valuable insights on How to franchise a business, steps to buy a franchise, Procedures for purchasing and managing a franchise, Exploring international franchising opportunities and available franchising opportunities within South Africa.

The event offered a unique mix of engaging presentations, interactive activities, and networking opportunities. Participants had the opportunity to engage directly with franchise experts, successful entrepreneurs, and peers who share a passion for business growth. This collaborative environment encouraged the exchange of ideas and the forging of meaningful professional relationships. By connecting small business owners with the franchising sector, the session highlighted franchising as a viable and scalable business model. It also emphasised the importance of strategic partnerships and informed decision-making in expanding business operations. The FASA Networking Session showcased CfERI's commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and small business development. Through events like this, the Centre empowers local businesses to reach new heights by exploring innovative growth strategies.



FASA CEO, Mr Freddy Makgato (left) met up with Mrs Boitumelo Chicotelane (right), founder of Chicicos Holdings and winner of the 2024 Grow your Small Business competition, during the networking session

Empowering african communities through entrepreneurship

Force of Change, an independent non-profit company (NPC), is on a mission to promote entrepreneurship in marginalised communities across Africa. Founded by a group of like-minded individuals with diverse sectoral expertise, the organisation focuses on equipping individuals with the skills, resources, and support needed to establish and grow their businesses. This mission aims to alleviate poverty and foster sustainability, creating long-term economic resilience and self-reliance in communities.



Cferi intern, Ms Lebogang Ntswane (seated left) assisted community members with information on business registration processes

On October 1, 2024, Force of Change joined forces with ORBIT TVET College CfERI and other stakeholders to host an Entrepreneurship Conference at the Bethanie Tribal Hall in Brits. The event brought together 100 small business owners from both formal and informal sectors to explore opportunities for business growth and development. Attendees received valuable insights into resources, support programmes, and strategies available to enhance their entrepreneurial journeys. The conference aimed to establish a network of economically active rural African entrepreneurs by providing access to information and education about business opportunities, encouraging collaboration and mentorship among entrepreneurs and by highlighting the potential of entrepreneurship as a tool for economic transformation. As part of the follow-up, CfERI will organise and facilitate incubation sessions for qualifying small businesses, offering further support to help them thrive

IN THE FAST LANE

MARKETING AND STUDENT RECRUITMENT HIGHLIGHTS

By Wilheminah Modisane - Senior Registration Officer



Mr T Mokale from Mankwe Campus visited Kgamanyane Secondary School during their open day and career exhibition on 11 October. The goal of the event was to expose learners to career options and to provide them with information so that they can make informed decisions

The 2024 marketing and recruitment strategy was successfully implemented, yielding tangible outcomes. Our newly formed campus marketing teams demonstrated exceptional dedication and enthusiasm, rising to the challenge whenever required. Our core mandate remains educating the college community about the value of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and its sector. In line with our vision, "A global institution of excellence, surpassing community needs", we strive to meet the evolving educational demands of our community. To effectively engage with our target markets, we employ a range of direct marketing and recruitment initiatives, including: career exhibitions, open days, awareness programmes, stakeholder liaison sessions, promotional campaigns, and school visits. These recruitment drives enable us to enhance visibility and credibility; foster meaningful relations with key stakeholders; and most importantly, drive enrolment and growth.

Career exhibition and outreach campaigns

Our institution has made significant strides in promoting educational opportunities within the Bojanala District Municipality, successfully covering

90% of secondary schools through participation in career exhibitions. These exhibitions targeted a diverse range of stakeholders, including Grade 8-12 learners, out-of-school youth, Life Orientation educators and community members. The outreach initiatives included key collaborations with institutions/departments such as the Moses Kotane Social Development, Madibeng Municipality, Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Department of Basic Education (Bojanala) and the Department of Employment and Labour. Additionally, school visits were conducted at seven secondary schools, engaging learners from Grades 7-12. These extensive outreach efforts underscore our institution's dedication to accessibility, community engagement and empowering the youth. By providing critical information on educational career pathing and financial support options, including NSFAS, we bridge the gap between aspiration and achievement.



The Mankwe Campus marketing team visited the Bakgatla ba Kgale Community Career Centre from 16-18 September 2024 where they shared information with members of the community and school learners



Celebrating TVET college month

In recognition of TVET college month, ORBIT TVET College hosted an array of engaging activities designed to promote the college Programmes Qualification Mix (PQM) to the public and prospective students. The focus was on encouraging youth to invest in TVET for a brighter future and innovation. Throughout August, the College welcomed learners, educators, and the public to its campuses through open days, virtual open days, career days, school visits, and e-advocacy initiatives. Open days were held at all campuses with Grade 9-11 learners from secondary schools in the Bojanala District Municipality invited to tour the College's state-of-the-art workshop and simulation facilities, observing practical training in action. The Centre for Entrepreneurship Rapid Incubator was also showcased, highlighting non-financial support for Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs). Visiting learners discovered alternative study programmes leading to entrepreneurial paths and received information on financial aid options. Educators and officials who attended also benefited from the open days. In total the open days attracted 50 secondary schools, 1,238 potential students, 50 (LO) Educators, and 19 out-of-school youths.



The Brits Campus marketing team undertook an outreach to Meerhof School on 4 October 2024 where they met with grade 11s and 12s to share valuable information on possible career choices.

In addition, community outreach efforts included outdoor media advertising as well as radio interviews targeting NEETs (Not in Employment, Education, or Training), out-of-school youth, and the general public. A virtual open day video was also shared across digital platforms, and a comprehensive social media campaign ran throughout August, sharing informative videos and advertorials.

The TVET Month celebrations successfully covered key stakeholders, enhancing understanding and positioning the sector for future growth. By promoting TVET, ORBIT College continues to inspire the next generation of skilled professionals and entrepreneurs.

Merry Christmas...

Merry Christmas...

IN THE FAST LANE

MANKWE CAMPUS HOSPITALITY STUDENTS SHOWCASE THEIR TALENTS AT CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

By Omphemetse Maota – Banquet Manager Mankwe Campus



N4 student, J Khoatsana preparing roasted garlic and herb baby potatoes as one of the dishes for the function

On 7 November 2024, the Mankwe Campus hospitality students showcased their exceptional skills and creativity as they catered for the merSETA & OCTO SDP Capacity Building Workshop held at the Mankwe Campus Conference Centre. This prestigious event provided a platform for NCV Level 3 and 4 and Report 191 N4 students to demonstrate their capabilities in both event management and culinary arts, essential components of South Africa's thriving tourism and hospitality industry.

The students meticulously prepared the conference room, ensuring it met the requirements of the distinguished guests. As part of the experience, they served a delightful breakfast buffet that was complemented by breathtaking views of the Pilanesberg National Park, adding a unique touch to the workshop.

Under the expert guidance of Chef Meyer, the students also prepared a scrumptious lunch buffet, which was served in the comfort of the cosy restaurant. The menu and presentation reflected their culinary artistry, as well as their attention to detail, precision, and ability to cater for a high-profile event.

The tourism and hospitality sector is a cornerstone of South Africa's economy, known for its potential to create jobs and drive economic growth. Initiatives such as this event are invaluable in equipping students with the practical experience and industry-relevant skills needed to succeed in this competitive field. The ability to combine creativity with professionalism, as demonstrated by the students, highlights their readiness to contribute to the development of a vibrant tourism industry.

This event not only celebrated the talent and hard work of the hospitality students but also underscored the critical role of vocational training in shaping the future of South Africa's workforce. Through their participation in the workshop, these students exemplified the potential of TVET Colleges to produce skilled professionals who will thrive in the dynamic tourism and hospitality sectors.



NCV level 3 & 4 hospitality students prepared the conference set up according to the client's specifications



Supervised by Chef Meyer, students prepared a breakfast and lunch buffet in the restaurant overlooking the Pilanesberg National Park

ORBIT TVET COLLEGE CELEBRATES INTERN SUCCESS AT INSETA AWARD CEREMONY

By Sharlotte Sibanda – Visual Communication Administrator



INSETA intern recipients of the achievement awards together with their trainers

On Friday, 08 November 2024, the Rustenburg Campus Auditorium buzzed with excitement as ORBIT College together with INSETA hosted an award ceremony to celebrate the achievements of its interns. The event, hosted by the Insurance Sector Education and Training Authority (INSETA), was a tribute to the hard work and dedication of 71 young learners who had successfully completed their work readiness training with Ikhwezelihle and Delcom training institute. INSETA's commitment to addressing critical skill gaps in the insurance sector aligns with its mission to support transformation within the industry while enhancing the quality and breadth of talent in South Africa.

INSETA's role within the insurance sector is crucial, offering resources and opportunities that range from learnerships to skills development programmes. By funding programmes such as bursaries, internships, and skills courses, INSETA contributes to the sustainable growth of the sector and strengthens its workforce. Through its partnership with ORBIT College, INSETA provided internships to an initial cohort of 21 learners in 2023, later expanding with an additional 50 learners in 2024. With all 71 interns successfully placed with various employers, the programme is testament to the effectiveness of collaboration between education and industry.

programme is testament to the effectiveness of collaboration between education and industry.

To ensure the success of its interns, INSETA requires all learners to complete a comprehensive ten-day Work Readiness Programme. This programme equips interns with the essential skills they need to thrive in professional environments, covering everything from workplace ethics to financial literacy. INSETA generously funded this training, allowing ORBIT TVET College to enlist expert service providers to deliver high-quality instruction and guidance to the learners.

The Work Readiness Programme was delivered by two prominent training providers. Delcom Training Institute, led by Ms Lorita Ehrke, conducted training for the original cohort of 21 interns. The programme ran from 10 May to 12 July 2024, with sessions held on Fridays to avoid conflicts with the interns' work schedules. Delcom covered the campuses of Mankwe, Brits, and Rustenburg, and oversaw the monitoring and grading of the interns' Portfolios of Evidence (POEs), ultimately leading to the awarding of certificates.

Ikhwezelihle Training Institute, under the guidance of Ms Zodwa Phungula, took charge of the additional 50 interns. The group began their journey on 01 August 2024 with an induction day, and continued training through to 04 October 2024. These sessions were also scheduled on Fridays, except for the induction day, ensuring consistency and minimal disruption to the interns' work placements.

IN THE FAST LANE

The syllabus for the Work Readiness Programme was comprehensive, providing interns with critical skills in verbal and written communication, email and telephone etiquette, time management, workplace ethics, customer care, and financial literacy. Additionally, the programme focused on practical job-seeking skills, such as resume writing, interview preparation, job search strategies, and dressing appropriately for the workplace.

The award ceremony at Rustenburg Campus recognised the interns' dedication to their professional development and the impact they have made within their respective placements. Representatives from INSETA, ORBIT TVET College, and the service providers were in attendance, highlighting the collaborative efforts that made this programme possible. Speeches from industry leaders and college representatives emphasised the transformative role of internships and work readiness training, underscoring the importance of industry-aligned skills in today's rapidly evolving job market.

As the 71 interns move forward in their careers, the skills and experiences gained through INSETA's support will empower them to contribute meaningfully to the broader South African economy. The awards ceremony was a fitting celebration of their accomplishments, marking a promising beginning to their future endeavours.

THE PLATINUM INCUBATOR REACHES PLATAFRICA COMPETITION FINALS!

By Oratile Segakweng – TPI Business Development Manager



Emma Mahlatsi, 3rd place finalist in the Student Category and People's Choice Award winner



The Platinum Incubator (TPI) proudly participated in the 25th PlatAfrica Awards, hosted by Anglo American Platinum in partnership with Platinum Guild International India (PGI India) and Metal Concentrators. PlatAfrica is South Africa's premier platinum jewellery design and manufacturing competition, where participants were challenged to draw inspiration from this year's theme, Legacy and Beyond. As the world's largest producer of platinum, South Africa plays a key role in the platinum jewellery industry. This flagship market development initiative was established to foster innovation and technical expertise in platinum jewellery design and manufacturing within the local industry.

TPI had an outstanding showing at this year's competition, with four interns/SMMEs and one mentor making it to the top ten finalists. Emmah Mahlatsi took 3rd place and also won the People's Choice Award, while Ndzalama Timbane secured 4th place in the Student Category. Remarkably, all the student finalists have only been with TPI since the beginning of 2024 and had never worked with platinum prior to this experience.

The dedication of the team, including Production Manager & Master Goldsmith, Lungile Xhwantini and Production Supervisor & Goldsmith, Mandlenkosi Moses None, who shared their expertise and knowledge of platinum craftsmanship, was key to their success. Late nights and early mornings paid off, as the designs and quality of the pieces produced were nothing short of exceptional.



Ndzalama Timbane (left) obtained 4th place in the Student Category



Ellena Masinga was a finalist in the PlatAfrica competition



Thabisile Nkosi (right) was a finalist in the PlatAfrica competition



On the right, Koketso Mohlala, TPI Mentor, finalist in the Professional category



STUDENT SUPPORT PITSTOP

MESSAGE FROM THE SRC PRESIDENT 2024

By Pretty Mohajane – SRC President 2024



Ms P Mohajane
SRC President 2024

Dear fellow students

As the year draws to a close, I take this moment to reflect on our shared journey. It has undoubtedly been a challenging year, but through perseverance and divine grace, we have kept moving forward.

Academic progress and leadership

Academically, we have experienced a mix of ups and downs, but it is heartening to note the significant overall improvement. This progress is a testament to the unwavering commitment of our Peer Academic Leaders (PALs), many of whom are also SRC members. This dual role exemplifies that leadership is not merely political—it is about service, mentorship, and driving academic excellence.

Advocating for student interests

The SRC has actively engaged with SATVETSA (South African TVET Student Association) and the Minister's office to enhance the effectiveness of student representation. Our aim is to expand the scope of SRC involvement in addressing student concerns and advocating for meaningful change.

In collaboration with SATVETSA and Student Support Services, we have also had numerous discussions with NSFAS officials to address long-standing funding challenges. While this year showed marked improvement compared to previous years, we remain committed to finding permanent solutions for non-funding and status issues affecting our peers.

Community engagement

Our Rustenburg Campus SRC made us proud by embodying the spirit of giving back. They donated toiletry bags to learners at Diteko Special School in Tlhabane - a gesture of compassion that has truly risen the SRC flag. Initiatives such as these highlight our commitment to community outreach and support.

Looking ahead

The SRC continues to advocate tirelessly for student concerns at all levels. We are confident that, in due time, our efforts will yield the positive outcomes we strive for. As the exam season approaches, I wish you all success and encourage you to give your best effort. May this festive season bring joy, rest, and the fulfilment of all your plans.

Yours in service
President Yama 2K
ORBIT College SRC President

BONFIRE BOOK REVIEW SPARKS READING MOVEMENT AT ORBIT TVET COLLEGE

By Charlotte Sibanda – Visual Communication Administrator



SRC members and student support officials together with Ms T Thopile (Deputy Principal: Academic & Student Support), Mr D Mokoena (Principal), campus managers and Mr P Nkhu (ASD Curriculum Implementation) enjoyed an insightful evening at ANEW Hotel during the book review

On 3 October 2024, staff and students gathered around a bonfire under the evening sky at Anew Hunters Rest Hotel in Rustenburg for a book review. This event was an extension of the Future Leaders' Reading Initiative, which was launched on 12 June 2024, during a book handover ceremony where the Principal, Mr Dika Mokoena, provided each SRC (Student Representative Council) member with a copy of *Nervous Conditions* by Tsitsi Dangarembga. The initiative, designed to foster a culture of reading within the institution, drew an impressive turnout, with the principal applauding the active participation and lively engagement among SRC members and staff.

The book of choice, *Nervous Conditions* by Tsitsi Dangarembga, is a powerful story that delves into the complexities of post-colonial Zimbabwe and the struggles of young African women. The purpose of this gathering was to encourage both staff and students to embrace reading, not only as an academic pursuit, but also as a means of self-reflection and personal growth. The SRC members, who were instrumental in promoting this event, expressed gratitude for the opportunity it provided.

The review sparked thoughtful discussions on the themes of identity, gender, and resilience portrayed in *Nervous Conditions*. Staff and students alike shared their interpretations and reflections, with some relating the challenges in the novel to their own experiences. The bonfire setting added a warm, communal atmosphere that enhanced the connection between the people present and the book's themes, fostering an open space for sharing diverse perspectives. Attendees left, feeling inspired to start or rekindle a hobby of reading, finding it both enriching and empowering.

The success of this event has sparked a movement within the institution to make reading sessions a regular affair. Plans are underway to review a different book annually, with selections spanning a variety of genres and cultures. The principal and SRC hope that this initiative will continue to grow, encouraging even more people to embrace literature as a vital tool for understanding and connecting with the world around them.

STUDENT SUPPORT PITSTOP

INNOCENT MOTSAMAI OUTSHINES COMPETITORS AT NATIONAL ATHLETICS

By Paul Tekana – Student Support Officer Brits Campus



ORBIT TVET College is incredibly proud of Mr Innocent Goitsemodimo Motsamai, an Office Administration student from Brits Campus, who was selected to compete in the CoSACSA National Athletics Championships for differently abled students at Pilditch Stadium in Pretoria from 01-05 May 2024 as a member of the North West Provincial Athletics team.

Mr Motsamai did the College proud by winning gold in three events: the T47 category 100m and 200m track events, as well as the F47 long jump. He was recognised as one of the top ten athletes at the championships and was awarded a pair of training sneakers by one of the event sponsors.

Earlier this year, Mr Motsamai also impressed at the SASAPD Toyota National Athletics Championships, where he represented the Provincial PARA team and won gold in both the T47 100m and 200m

Mr I Matsamai made a clean sweep by clinching three gold medals at the CoSACSA National Athletics Championships and two gold medals at the SASAPD Toyota National Athletics Championships this year

RUSTENBURG CAMPUS SRC GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

By Kgomofatso Simane – Rustenburg Campus SRC Chairperson



Learners from Iteko Special School posing with the Rustenburg Campus SRC and Ms M Mahila, Student Support Officer with their donations

The Student Representative Council (SRC) at Rustenburg Campus recently demonstrated their commitment to social responsibility through a compassionate outreach initiative. On 19 November 2024, the SRC donated essential toiletries to learners with special needs at Iteko Special School, Tlhabane embodying the spirit of care and community engagement.

The outreach initiative was spearheaded by SRC Chairperson, Mr K.D. Simane, along with Secretary, Ms M. Khoza, Academic Officer, Mr K Molele, and Treasurer, Ms K. Seabi. Accompanied by Rustenburg Campus student support officer, Ms M Mahila, the team handed over fifty toiletry packages to the Iteko School principal, Ms Moeng. These packages, containing toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap bars, face cloths, and sanitary towels, were distributed to learners who had not previously benefitted from donations received throughout the year.

The main objective of the initiative was to provide these essential items to improve the daily hygiene of the learners. However, the impact extended far beyond practicality. For learners with special needs, access to basic hygiene products fosters dignity and boosts self-esteem. This contribution not only addressed a tangible need, but also conveyed a powerful message of inclusion, care, and support.

In his speech, Chairperson Mr. Simane highlighted the importance of helping others, quoting the Setswana saying: “Motho ke motho ka batho, ebile mabogo dinku a thebana,” which translates to, “We navigate life better when we assist one another.” He also emphasized the SRC’s motivation to uplift and give back to the community, encouraging the learners by affirming that being differently-abled does not limit their ability to make a meaningful impact. Such initiatives inspire others to follow suit, emphasizing the importance of empathy, kindness, and active community involvement. By reaching out to Iteko Special School, the Rustenburg Campus SRC has set a powerful example of student leadership in action—creating meaningful change and leaving a lasting impact on the lives of those who need it most

ANNUAL REVIEW OF PEER SUPPORT PROGRAMMES PROMOTES WELLNESS AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS

By Sharlotte Sibanda – Visual Communication Administrator



WPMs gathered at Anew Hotel conference room for their review

The Peer Academic Leaders (PALs) and Wellness Peer Mentors (WPMs) conducted their annual reviews from 21-22 October 2024, reaffirming their ongoing commitment to promoting student well-being and academic performance at campuses. The WPM Programme was reviewed on 21 October, followed by the PAL Programme on 22 October. Both initiatives are instrumental in supporting students by addressing mental health concerns, managing academic stress, and fostering a healthy, collaborative learning environment.

Promoting student health and wellness through the WPM programme

The WPM Programme is a key initiative aimed at promoting mental health and wellness among students. It is designed to provide peer support, ensuring students have access to resources, guidance, and a supportive community that understands the challenges they may face. WPMs are trained by the Student Support Services team in collaboration with Life Skills and Computer Literacy lecturers to offer guidance on mental health, wellness, adjustment, and stress management.

During the recent review, mentors shared their experiences, success stories, and challenges encountered over the past year. A key focus of the discussion was the programme’s impact on normalising conversations about mental health and reducing the stigma often associated

STUDENT SUPPORT PITSTOP



PALs seated at the view awaiting the proceedings of the day

with it. Mentors also highlighted the success of workshops and awareness campaigns that educated students on coping mechanisms, self-care, and stress management techniques. Feedback from students who benefitted from the WPM Programme was presented, demonstrating its positive influence. Many students reported successfully navigating difficult times with the help of WPMs. They expressed feeling less isolated and more equipped to handle stress, knowing they had access to empathetic peers who understood their struggles. The review emphasised the critical role of the WPM Programme in fostering a compassionate campus culture that prioritises mental well-being and provides valuable support to the student community.

Building academic success through peer support

The PAL Programme focuses on fostering academic achievement through peer-to-peer guidance, connecting academically successful students with those who may be struggling or seeking to improve their study skills and academic performance. PALs assist in various subjects, helping students develop effective study strategies, understand challenging concepts, and manage their academic workload.

During the review, PALs and programme coordinators discussed the progress made over the year, including challenges faced in engaging students and improving academic outcomes. The programme has been especially valuable in creating a supportive network where students can seek academic help without fear of judgment. PALs emphasised that the peer-based approach allows students to feel more comfortable asking for help and fosters a collaborative, rather than competitive, academic environment. The review also featured testimonials from tutees who benefitted from the programme, many of whom reported improvements in their grades, confidence, and overall academic performance.

The impact of peer support programmes

Both the WPM and PAL programmes contribute to a holistic support system on campus. They address not only the academic and personal needs of students, but also help create a stronger, more resilient campus community. By promoting mental well-being and academic excellence, these programmes enable students to thrive in both their personal and academic lives, preparing them for future success. As these programmes continue to evolve, campus leaders remain committed to expanding their reach and impact. This year's reviews highlighted their successes and identified opportunities for growth, setting the stage for an even more effective peer support system in the years ahead.



Ms Thopile addressing PAL members

ORBIT COLLEGE PROMOTES HEALTH AND SOCIAL AWARENESS THROUGH A SERIES OF INITIATIVES

By Paul Tekana, Student Support Officer- Brits Campus, & Dikeledi Senoamadi Student Support Officer- Mankwe Campus



The winning netball team at the PREP campaign netball tournament

Student Support Services at ORBIT TVET College recently organised a series of impactful social and health-related initiatives aimed at addressing pressing issues that affect students' lives. These events, strategically aligned with nationally celebrated themes, created opportunities for meaningful dialogue and empowerment, facilitated by professionals from various organisations.

Promoting health awareness

Health awareness was a central focus of the initiatives. On 23 August 2024, Mankwe Campus hosted a vibrant netball tournament in collaboration with Shout It Now at the campus sports ground. The event aimed to promote the uptake of PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) among female students. PrEP is a preventative medication proven to reduce the risk of HIV infection, empowering women to take charge of their health. The

tournament combined the fun and energy of sports with crucial health education, while Shout It Now generously sponsored prizes for the winning team, making the event both impactful and enjoyable.

Celebrating Inclusivity

October, which marks Pride Month in South Africa, was celebrated at all campuses with events highlighting the contributions and rights of the LGBTQIA+ community. On 9 October, Brits Campus hosted an engaging LGBTQI+ awareness and celebration session led by Faith Edmunds from the Colour Me Foundation, in collaboration with Access Chapter 12 and FEW. Similarly, Mankwe Campus commemorated National LGBTQ+ History Month on 11 October with a celebration held in the campus hall, fostering inclusivity and respect for diversity within the college community.



Ms S Maunatlala (left) and Ms O Seadira (right) and from Access Chapter Two in Rustenburg formed part of the LGBTQI+ awareness and celebration session hosted at Brits Campus. Students from Mankwe Campus also turned up in their numbers to attend the LGBTQI+ session (right)



STUDENT SUPPORT PITSTOP



SANPARK official, Ms O Ditefo facilitates an awareness session on substance abuse

On 12 September, Brits Campus hosted a substance abuse awareness session led by Ms Ofentse Ditefo from SANPARK. The session provided valuable insights into the dangers of substance use, emphasising the importance of informed choices and support systems to combat this pervasive issue.

Raising awareness on gender-based violence

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) remains a critical issue in South African society. To address this, Brits Campus organised an awareness session on 2 October, facilitated by Mr Sydney Madibo from Father a Nation. The session underscored the far-reaching impact of GBV and highlighted the significance of building strong, supportive networks to combat this societal challenge.



Mr S Madibo (left) engages students during a Gender-Based Violence session held at Brits Campus

Highlighting cancer awareness

October also provided an opportunity to raise awareness about cancer through targeted campaigns. On 18 October 2024, Mankwe Campus hosted a breast cancer awareness campaign at the conference centre. Female staff members attended an insightful presentation by Dr Molebatsi and Nurse Poopedi, who discussed the symptoms, risk factors, and importance of early detection



Mankwe Campus male staff members attending the Prostate cancer awareness campaign

A week later, on 25 October 2024, a prostate cancer awareness campaign was held



Female staff at Mankwe Campus attended an informative session on breast cancer on 18 October 2024

at the same venue, extending the focus to male staff members. Dr Munyausi delivered a compelling presentation on the symptoms, risk factors, and early detection of prostate cancer, highlighting the value of regular health checks in mitigating risks. These social and health initiatives underscores ORBIT TVET College's dedication to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for students and staff alike. By addressing critical health and social issues through education and engagement, the Student Support Services team continues to empower individuals with the knowledge and tools they need to lead healthier, more informed lives. Such initiatives reflect the college's ongoing commitment to holistic student development and community well-being.

ORBIT NETBALL TEAM SOURS TO VICTORY IN 2024 SEASON

By Melusi Nzimande – ORBIT College male netball player

The ORBIT TVET College netball teams had an extraordinary 2024 season, marked by remarkable achievements, unwavering dedication, and teamwork. The season has seen both the male and female teams excel in various leagues and championships, showcasing their talent and determination to achieve greatness. The teams season highlight was their outstanding performance at the RNA League Finals, held on 29 June 2024, at Rustenburg HTS sports grounds. The male team triumphed with a first-place finish (gold), while the female team secured a commendable third place (bronze).

The male team also clinched gold (first place) at the Eastern Male League Final held at Hartebeespoort Hoërskool on 19 September 2024. This was a remarkable improvement from their bronze finish in 2023.



At the College Sports Arts and Culture South Africa (CoSACSA) Summer Ball Games, held in Ugu District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal, from 22-27 September 2024, the female netball team once again shone, securing third place, while the male team achieved a respectable fourth place.

The male team celebrated a significant milestone with Omphemetse Phege selected to represent ORBIT TVET College and Bojanala District at the Male National Championships in Ellis Park, Johannesburg, from September 22–26, 2024. Additionally, six female players—Kelebogile Morake, Boitshepo Mocuminyane, Didimalang Sethunya, Anna Marima, Bontle Sesinyi, and Ditshego Letebele—were selected to represent Bojanala District and the College at the prestigious Spar National Championships, scheduled from December 1–6, 2024, at Ellis Park, Johannesburg.



These achievements would not have been possible without the exceptional leadership and guidance of the team's management and coaching staff - Ms K Njoro (Team Manager), Ms J. Mbola (Head Coach) and Ms L Mamorare (Assistant Coach). The ORBIT netball teams take immense pride in their 2024 accomplishments and is determined to achieve even greater Success in the upcoming season. Congratulations to the players and coaching team on a phenomenal year!

Merry Christmas...

Merry Christmas...

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