

THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF CAMPUS MANAGERS' TRAINING A GREAT SUCCESS

By Tshegofatso Rapoo



Ms M Marais, Former Principal of ORBIT College welcoming delegates on day one

Approximately 250 Campus Managers from various TVET Colleges around the country converged at ORBIT TVET College, Mankwe Campus in December 2018 for the 'Professional Development of Campus Managers' Training. The gathering, which was the second block training for the year, was aimed at focusing on the design and management of effective teaching and learning systems as well as developing good practices in Student Support Services.

During the three day training, Campus Managers engaged in break-away sessions, which saw them share strategies, techniques, resources and experiences on how to improve the management of the core function of Colleges, i.e. teaching and learning, which is ultimately. However, it wasn't a case of 'all work and no play'. Day two saw them 'trade' their suits and ties for sportswear, as they took part in a number of fun activities, including the Zumba dance and the 'Amazing Race'.

Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training (DHET), Honourable Buti Manamela, graced the occasion on day three and delivered a keynote address. He emphasised the important role TVET Colleges play in the country, pointing out that the TVET College Sector is a national priority in our post-school education and training system. "Mid-level skills, offered by TVET colleges are critical for the development of our country. We have to underscore the importance of an effective, well governed and responsive TVET College Sector, Mr Manamela said. He

added that it is the responsibility of the sector to ensure that TVET Colleges are sought after and that students should not simply seek space at Colleges because of the availability of student grants. “We understand that getting a student grant to study at a post school institution is critically important for the majority of our youth. However, a young person should choose to enrol at a TVET College because she or he wants to pursue a career in a technical field and not because they could not get into a university”, he added.

In closing, the Deputy Minister congratulated the Campus Managers for being “the women and men who are at the coal face of making that transition - a transition in providing quality, relevant technical and vocational education for the 21st Century”. He urged them to build communities inside their campuses, which will elevate Colleges, not only amongst internal stakeholders and community, but also in the eyes of the surrounding college community in order to become institutions of first choice. The Deputy Minister's visit included a tour of the Campus facilities.

The event was concluded with a prize giving ceremony, in which the DM acknowledged and awarded the winning teams, as well as the key stakeholders who ensured that the training was a great success.

Preceding this prestigious event, was the first block training that was rolled out across seven training centres in August 2018, with the participation of approximately one hundred and fifty (150) Campus Managers. ORBIT College hosted twenty six (26) of those Managers and DHET officials from 23-25 August 2018. The workshop was spearheaded by former Principal of ORBIT College, Ms Maryna Marais, who was the head of Cluster 6 (Rustenburg). Training also took place in the following clusters: Port Elizabeth, Kimberley, Port Shepstone, New Castle, Emalahleni and Polokwane.



Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Honourable Buti Manamela delivering a keynote address



Principal of ORBIT College, Ms M Marais and other officials engaging the Deputy Minister during his tour of Mankwe Campus