



THE LIFE OF A MOBILE LAB TECHNICIAN

Midlands's community college LAB technician Thandanani Mdakane, demonstrating a Science practical to grade 10 pupils of Emhubheni High School, Estcourt.

My Name is Thandanani and I love physics a lot. After matriculating I attended Midlands Community College where I upgraded my Maths and Physics results. This is when I came I across this job of becoming a lab technician after finishing my time at MCC.

Every morning from Monday to Friday (and sometimes Saturdays) we travel to different schools in Pietermaritzburg and Estcourt regions in a Mobile Lab Avanza. Our preparations for the journey start early in the morning. We attend schools in different teams where we demonstrate Physical Science experiments for grades 10, 11 and 12. It usually takes up a lot of time, often coming back late in the afternoon.

When I get to the classroom, I start by interacting with the pupils by sharing some of my experiences as a science student myself. In the demonstration I try to help as much as possible by showing as much information regarding the practical as I possibly can. This effort has impacted the learners' lives because they always say they have a better understanding after I have demonstrated. Many teachers really appreciate the help and are always anticipating our next visit.

My first time at this job I had to learn how to speak loudly, and interact with learners, and not to be shy or showing any signs of being introverted. The way I handled my first day was one of my proudest moments in the job, thanks to the training I received and the effort that I put in during my preparations. It makes me so proud every day to know that I am helping out with disadvantaged communities by helping the learners. Every time I think about this I know that I am contributing to South Africa and it makes me proud.

The most frequent challenge is that of the number of learners we demonstrate to. Most of the time, although not in all cases, there are many learners in one class which becomes a challenge because some struggle to see the demonstration closely. It is always crucial for learners to see our apparatus closely but sometimes it just doesn't happen

Did you know that it costs students R200 to apply for tertiary institutions in KZN?

"It makes me so proud every day to know that I am helping disadvantaged communities by helping the learners. Every time I think about this I know that I am contributing to South Africa and it makes me proud" T. Mdakane (Technician in the Mobile Lab Project)



Cynthia, is one of our 12 Family Community Motivators from the Mpophomeni Hom- Based ECD Programme. In this picture she is facilitating a music ring with the children. These children cannot access the ECD sites in their community because of the long distance they would have to walk as well as financial difficulties in their households. The home-based ECD programme is a school readiness programme giving them an opportunity to do early childhood development activities that they would otherwise not receive.

Where are they now?



Sihawukele `Emma' Zulu

Emma enrolled for our Maths, Science, Technology `Recovery' Project in 2014 to upgrade her matric results. She came from St Joseph's School in New Hanover, having been part of our Saturday/ Holiday School programme in that area sponsored by the Sugar Industry Trust Fund for Education (SITFE) when she was in grades 11 and 12. She was a faithful member of All Saint's congregation in Nottingham Road last year and will be remembered fondly by many local members. She was determined to `study something in Agriculture' and, at the end of 2014, was accepted by Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in P.E. to do a diploma in Forestry on the George campus. `I am very lucky because a person from overseas has paid my fees. I am doing very well in Botany pracs but still struggle with academic English.' Well done, Emma!



Sindi Ndaba our ECD facilitator on completing her Assessor training. She has also recently passed her driver's test. Well done Sindi on not giving up. Hard work always pays off. We are lucky to have you on our team.

Sindi is an ECD facilitator. She travels to our different toy libraries in Mpophomeni, Loskop and Bruntville changing toys for them and bringing all the exciting games. ECD goes by the slogan "LEARNING IS FUN!" Sindi also ensures that all the ECD teachers make it fun to teach by sharing all her skills and taking time playing the games with them making sure they take part in feeling young again.

To know more about our ECD department, follow them on Facebook: "Midlands Community College ECD"

WHAT'S ON

- Holiday School for 200 learners from two Education Districts. They receive extra tuition in Maths , Science and Accounting
- 18 July - Campus students Street clean-up.

THANK YOU

- Thank you to all who participated in our fundraising car wash, and to Sapore Restaurant for donating delicious coffee!
- Thank you to National Paints PMB for donating paints for our toy Library.
- Thank you to Tiger Wheels & Tyre PMB, Boshoff Street, for donating tyres to use in the playground at our Mpophomeni Toy Library



Midlands Community College celebrated the loyalty of staff who have been with us between 10 and 20 years!

From left: Thembo, Maureen, Humphry, Happy and Thuli