



Midlands
Community
College

Quarterly Newsletter

Message from the Director

Candy Goodlad



MCC has had a busy and productive year, reaching over 8000 beneficiaries through our various programmes and projects.

Our vision is to provide marginalised individuals and communities with access to meaningful, relevant and inclusive learning opportunities within our focus areas of Maths, Science and Technology and Early Childhood Development.

A priority this year has been on building relationships and collaborating with like-minded organisations in order to build a more strategic approach to development in our community, and improve the range of services provided to our beneficiaries. We are proud to bring you our first Newsletter which highlights some of our activities during the months of July and August.

67 Minutes For Mandela Day

Midlands Community College took to the streets to commemorate Mandela Day for 67 minutes. The MCC staff and Estendeni residents collaborated with Love Notties to clean up our neighborhood.



Midlands Community College staff, Estendeni residents, and Love Notties cleaning in and around town on Mandela Day.

"We can do so little alone, but so much together," Helen Keller.

WATCH THE SPACE

Applications will be made available shortly.

Keep an eye out for updates on our upgrading program and ECD courses on our social media platforms.

Women's Month Celebration



Midlands Community College employees pose for a photo on Women's Day.

Midlands Community College stood up on Women's Day, respectfully standing alongside all women everywhere. We recognize your journeys and share your hopes for a brighter future.



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Physical Science Olympiad

We are thrilled to announce that the grade 11 Physical Science Olympiad has returned after a two-year hiatus due to Covid. This year's olympiad featured 25 schools from our mobile lab. We are grateful to all of the students and teachers who assisted with the Olympiad this year.

Asibemunye High School finished third, Hlathikhulu High School came in second, and our Science Olympiad 2022 champion is **DRAKENSBERG COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL.**

Thank you so much to our sponsors for their invaluable assistance!



NASHUA



STEC@UKZN

CASIO



Drakensberg Comprehensive High School arrived prepared and won the competition. Pictured: Siyanda Nzuza, Ms. Hlongwangane, Amanda Cele, and Gavin Sandham of Nashua.

Google Digital Skills Training courtesy of Michaelhouse Community Partnerships Trust

The value of education is demonstrated by the fact that online courses enable students to complete homework and take tests online. Students need digital skills to succeed in a world where the internet is continuously changing.

Due to the ongoing growth of internet trends, students who intend to pursue further education must be well-prepared and have the necessary abilities.

Students from Asithuthuke Combined School's 11th grade had a profound five-day experience at Midlands Community College. They used Google Digital Skills to learn how to navigate the Google suite. Some students had never heard of Google suite before taking the computer class; as a result, they gain from such initiatives in terms of learning.



Asithuthuke Combined School grade 11 students are pictured at Midlands Community College after attending Google Digital Skills classes on day one.

Basics to Early Childhood Development



While learning through play, these critical personnel gained sufficient skills and knowledge.

In July, the ECD department ran a Solon Foundation-funded training workshop for non-teaching staff at ECD centers.

30 non-teaching staff attended and had a great deal of fun. The Basics to Early Childhood Development program enrolled 27 people, including 15 from Loskop, six from Hlathikhulu, three from Ntabamhlophe, one from Nottingham Road, one from Mooi River, and one from eMafakatini.

The program was designed to assist participants in managing children when ECD practitioners are absent.

The objective of the training was to support development across all sectors of the ECD workforce



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ECD Centre Upliftment

Gugu Shelembe is a cook at Midlands Community College's Sikhulile ECD center, where she works with the youngest children. She believes it is critical for her to learn as much as she can about handling and to care for children, as well as what to do and what not to do. She wants to be the best childcare provider in the world.

Gugu attended a five-day Solon Foundation-funded training workshop for ECD center non-teaching staff in July. "It has benefited me to be a part of this program," Gugu said. "I now understand how to interact and play with children of various ages."

"We humbly request that the program be extended so that we can be fully equipped with skills and knowledge, as well as gain enough confidence to perform our daily tasks at work," she added.



Pictured are children from Sikhulile ECD Centre based at Midlands Community College and Gugu Shelembe who is a cook at the centre.

First Rand Interns – 2022/2023



Pictured are interns from MCC, Letsee, Lima, and HPSA who attended First Job training at Midlands Community College.

MCC was thrilled to welcome seven new interns in July. First Rand Ltd has made a significant contribution to First Job Skills Development. We have more hands on deck across the board, and we are excited to incorporate their creative ideas into what we do.

The interns have had time to settle in with the MCC team after Work Orientation, and they have been contributing enthusiastically for the past eight weeks.

UMngeni Career Expo



Pictured: MCC's Khanyo Mabaso, Umngeni Municipality Deputy Mayor, Sandile Mnikathi; UMngeni Municipality Mayor, Chris Pappas and MCC's Mandisa Jacobs.

UMngeni Local Municipality and Inkosi Langalibalele Municipality invited Midlands Community College to career expos in July. Students in Grade 12 were exposed to a wide range of tertiary opportunities.

Our students face numerous challenges, but the most important aspect of preparing them for future studies is knowing that they have options. Our university partners were out in force.

Student Life Campus Life



Members of the Student Representative Council (SRC) for the 2022 academic year have been working hard to ensure students are well taken care of in all aspects of MCC during their time here.

"We are excited about our futures as we continue to be role models for our peers."

Pictured from left: Asanda Mkhwanazi, Mbali Khumalo, Thalente Shabalala, Zibusiso Mabaso, Malwande Miya (SRC president) and seated is Sizakele Sibeko.



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Feedback from our Staff

Happiness Motloun, a 47-year-old from Nquthu joined MCC in 2005 by assisting in the garden and was later appointed to assist as a cleaner that same year.

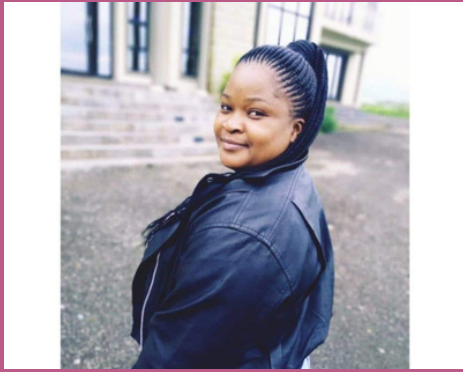
"I began working as a cook in the kitchen in 2009, and it helped improve my cooking skills and I grew an interest in learning more about recipes and trying new dishes."

"My highlight is learning how to place orders for the entire kitchen stock, and I've since been promoted to kitchen manager."



"We've enrolled in computer classes, cooking classes, and first aid classes. Learning these skills has helped me in numerous ways and given me the confidence to face many of my fears."

I'm thankful for the opportunity and for being a part of the MCC family."



Buji Mabaso is a Mooi River undergraduate who joined Midlands Community College as an intern for the year 2021/2022.

"Midlands Community College has influenced my life positively. My journey here began as an undergraduate Management Assistant from Emnambithi TVET College looking for hands-on experience to complete my qualification."

Buji returned to Midlands Community College in July to complete the remaining six months of experience required for her diploma because her experience broadened her administrative knowledge.

"Since joining the MCC team, my entire outlook on life has shifted. It has both influenced and improved my interpersonal skills."

Volunteering at Love Notties has helped me embrace the practice of gathering people for transformation in order to unite the community in the pursuit of positive change," Buji added.



Sboniso Mchunu from Mooi River is qualified with a diploma in Information Technology (IT). He was admitted as an intern in May 2021 as an IT Support/Computer Facilitator.

At the end of his internship, MCC absorbed him in a contractual capacity to continue with his role from May 2022.

"I've had a great experience at MCC, most of the things I know now, I learned here. Mike from Dynalogic Computers has had a huge impact on my skill sets and keeps showing me the ropes as far as IT is concerned."

"I highly recommend MCC as an experience hub, on a personal level I've gained so much support from the staff, they are always willing to assist no matter the problem you are faced with."

Deli Mkhize is an ECD facilitator/assessor from Howick, received a certificate in Early Childhood Development from Midlands Community College in 2019. In January 2020, Deli was hired as a full-time facilitator/assessor.



"Working at MCC has increased the value of my career significantly; I've learned so much about ECD and gained so much experience, and I'm still learning daily."

"I have been supported on a various number of courses, including Conduct Outcome Based Assessment and Occupational Directed Education Training and Development Practice, NQF Level 5. I'm thankful for the opportunities and support that the MCC family continues to provide."



Gugulethu Mthembu of Howick is currently completing an honors degree in social work at the University of KwaZulu Natal, Howard Campus.

Gugu began her journey at Midlands Community College in July of this year, when she was accepted as an intern for the academic year 2022/2023.

"My experience has been exceptional, and I have learned a great deal in such a short period of time. Working with communities to help eradicate social ills such as GBV, as well as working on our non-centre-based programs that aim to develop and change the lives of children who do not attend ECD centers, have been my career highlights."

"I hope to gain as much experience as possible from MCC in order to benefit both my career and my personal life. I'm grateful to be a part of such an enthusiastic and driven team."



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