



SUNCEP Newsletter



APRIL 2016_01

The Centre for Pedagogy (SUNCEP) in the Faculty of Education at Stellenbosch University (SU) hosted 14 different sessions to about 900 teachers and learners during the April school holidays.

These sessions were offered in different towns in the Northern and Western Cape.

Teacher Professional Learning



With Dr Trevor van Louw, Director from SUNCEP (second from right) and Mr Ramesh Jeram (far right), SUNCEP Component Head of Teacher Professional Learning are from the left: Mr Lennert Losper, Curriculum coordinator, Ms Charissa Links, Mathematics tutor, Ms Fancina Soudens, Physical Sciences (PS) tutor, Mr Jan Jordaan, Maths and PS tutor and Ms Janique Claase, administrator of this initiative in Springbok.

In Vredendal and Kuilsrivier teachers attended blended learning SU accredited Intermediate Phase Mathematics short courses.

The aim was to enhance the pedagogical content knowledge of teachers. All teachers were issued with tablets to further enhance their e-learning teaching skills.

In Stellenbosch a group of 50 management team members from schools in and around town attended a leadership and management course. The aim is to further enhance the functionality of the schools.



Teachers in Vredendal rejoicing after the Mathematics short course. With them are Mrs Christa Philander, SUNCEP facilitator working in the area and Mrs Pauline Hanekom, SUNCEP e-learning specialist.



Mathematics teachers in action in Kuilsrivier.

The following new Advanced Diplomas in Education (ADE), developed by SUNCEP, were registered by SAQA on the NQF:

- ADE in FET Phase Mathematics Literacy teaching
 - ADE in Intermediate Phase Natural Sciences teaching
 - ADE in FET Phase Physical Sciences teaching
- SUNCEP is awaiting SAQA registration of the following ADEs:
- ADE in FET Phase Life Sciences teaching
 - ADE in FET Phase Mathematics teaching
 - ADE in Senior Phase Mathematics teaching
 - ADE in Intermediate Phase Mathematics teaching

School-based interventions

SUNCEP provided opportunities for more than 400 learners to enhance their performance in Mathematics and Sciences.

Learners gathered in Worcester, Malmesbury, Villiersdorp, Atlantis, Franschhoek and Springbok.

Tutors identified by the different departments of education, alongside with some SUNCEP staff members presented the tuition sessions.

Two new initiatives launched

In the Breede River Valley near Worcester, school learners in a number of farm schools will improve their literacy and numeracy skills.



Mr Andrew Fair, Component Head of the School based interventions at SUNCEP (second from right) at Botha's Halte Primary school where the first contact session was hosted. With him are from left to right, Mr Pedro, the school's principal, Mrs & Mr Lyners, respectively the Afrikaans and Mathematics tutors, Mr Adams, Mathematics tutor and Ms Solomon, Afrikaans tutor.

After the initial face to face sessions, additional tuition sessions will be telecast

from Stellenbosch during the term.

This initiative will serve as a cost-effective way to allow expert tutors in six schools simultaneously without anyone having to travel.

At the same time, each teacher and his or her learners will also be able to not only interact with the tutor, but also with their neighbouring schools.

A second new intervention was launched in Franschhoek where 72 Grade 8 and 9 learners from Groendal Secondary School and Franschhoek High School attended a supplementary tuition session in Mathematics and Natural Sciences.



Learners from Franschhoek at work.

University preparation programmes

HOPE@Maties: first opportunity programme

300 HOPE@Maties learners attended holiday schools at five different venues in April. Apart from Mathematics, Physical Sciences and Accounting, these learners were informed about study opportunities at Maties as well as bursary opportunities to apply for.

Comments from a few HOPE@Maties learners after this session

- "It was truly amazing and was really helpful. It cleared up the areas with which I experienced difficulties during the first term. I actually can't wait for the next holiday."
- "I found the classes a great aid in further understanding the respective subjects I take."
- "When I understand the work, it becomes fun to do and with the Hope teachers, everything is explained in a way that allows you to understand it immediately."
- "It was interesting learning new and faster methods to do work that would be daunting to any other student."
- "I really appreciate the opportunity we are being given. The teachers treated us really well. And I honestly enjoyed and learnt a lot more than I already knew



from the holiday school. It really is a privilege to be part of this group".

SciMathUS: second opportunity programme

91 students enrolled in SciMathUS in 2016.



10 former SciMathUS students who graduated in March, received different BCom degrees at the same graduation session.

Busi Mahlobo, (below), another former SciMathUS student, obtained a MSc degree in Sustainable Agriculture. She is amongst the first students in South Africa to obtain this qualification.



- 226 students from the 2015 cohorts of HOPE@Maties and SciMathUS registered as Maties in 2016.
- 60 former HOPE@Maties and SciMathUS students graduated at the end of the 2015 academic year at the two graduation sessions in December 2015 and March 2016.

Staff news

- Dr Trevor van Louw was appointed as member of national Deans Forum/Department of Basic Education task team;
- delivered the key-note address at the Western Cape launch of Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) and Subject Committees (SC's);
- was invited by the Metropole South Education Department District to address Curriculum advisors on PLC's and SC's; and
- addressed school principals in Graaff Reinet on the role of principals leading the processes of school improvement.
- Prof Mdu Ndlovu was the key note speaker at the 3rd Annual Emerging Dialogue in Higher Education Assessment Conference and at the First Annual Conference of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Innovation (STEMI) Olympiads and Competitions Community of Practice where a community of practice was launched for sharing of knowledge and best practices to enhance STEMI Olympiads and Competitions in South Africa.
- Mrs Pauline Hanekom has been nominated as a member of the Panel of Experts for the *Western Cape e-learning Game Changer*, one of the strategies for economic growth and job creation in this province.
- Mrs Erika Hoffman was selected as a member of the Western Cape provincial committee for Life Sciences.