

Press Release

Empowering Principals for systemic change in South Africa's education system

28 January 2020 - Eighteen school principals from the Western Cape received their certificates for completion of the University of Cape Town's Graduate School of Business (UCT GSB) Management Development Programme in a ceremony tonight.

For the seventh year the GSB offered the programme in 2019 to school leaders in partnership with Principals Academy Trust (a public benefit organisation founded in 2012), along with Capitec Foundation, other corporates and private funds.

The programme continues to make a positive impact on the quality of schooling in South Africa by providing much-needed support and input to school principals in under-resourced areas, particularly in the Western Cape. It is run at the UCT GSB during school holidays, making it ideal for principals to attend, and consists of up to 16 days of contact time per year. Modules completed strengthen leadership capabilities through systems thinking, personal mastery and financial management.

Offering bursaries for attendance at the programme aligns with one of Capitec Foundation's core aims - to develop school leaders within education institutions in the communities that Capitec Bank serves.

"Central to the success of our country's education system is the leadership provided by school principals. Being part of this partnership approach supports our vision to assist with quality education in South Africa," says Neptal Khoza, Head: Corporate Social Investment, at Capitec, who hosted the certificate ceremony. "A teacher or principal can impact over 4000 learners in her or his career. Being part of making that contact valuable and life-changing is a privilege."

As a partner the Principals Academy Trust (PAT) provides regular mentoring by retired principals for the programme attendees, at their schools, for a minimum of three years.

In the nine mentors, PAT has combined educational leadership experience of 208 years, each of them now actively involved on a personal basis to mentor principals in challenged schools where socio-economic circumstances often hinder all educational outcomes. In 2012 PAT started by providing support in 24 schools. To date the organisation has meaningfully engaged with 195 Western Cape schools, a total of 203 principals or heads of school (as at end 2019) and impacted positively on the lives and futures of more than 200 000 learners during that time.

"Targeting the principals achieves significant results in a school," says PAT mentor, Bruce Probyn, retired principal of Herschel Girls' School and Chairman of the Western Cape Education Council (an advisory board to the Western Cape Minister of Education). "We can clearly see that in many schools the culture of the school has changed and that conducive learning environments are being created. It is always a rewarding experience to see a group of principals receive their certificates after completing the programme."

Kumeshnee West, Director of Executive Education at the GSB, explains why the GSB thinks it important to intervene at this level. "We have a specific goal to develop leaders for our country and the continent. A principal of a school has access to those future leaders early on in their lives. Personal mastery is a major component of the programme

and assists the principals to make systemic changes in their schools, for the benefit of the learners."

Capitec, through Capitec Foundation, sees potential for the GSB programme and has already expanded it into the Eastern Cape.

The principals that received their certificates are:

1. Mrs Natasha Pather, Principal of Alpine Primary School in Mitchell's Plain (Beacon Valley)
2. Mr Bongani Macikama, Principal of Du Noon Primary School in Du Noon.
3. Mr Searle Benjamin, Acting Principal of Emil Weder High School in Genadendal.
4. Mr Keith Meyer, Acting Principal of Fairview Primary School in Grassy Park.
5. Ms Tanya van Graan, Principal of Highlands Primary School in Mitchell's Plain (Woodlands)
6. Mr Thabo Mokhanya, Principal of Hopolang Combined School in Gugulethu.
7. Mr Ntsikelelo Ngcenge, Acting Principal of Intshukumo Secondary School in Gugulethu.
8. Mrs Dalene Olivier, Principal of La Rochelle Girls' Primary School in Paarl.
9. Mr Lincoln Wildschut, Principal of Mount Pleasant Primary School in Hermanus.
10. Mr Jeffrey King, Principal of Northpine Primary School in Brackenfell.
11. Mr Sam Sehloho, Principal of Ntwasahlobo Primary School in Khayelitsha.
12. Mrs Nomsa Mzola, Deputy Principal at Nyameko Primary School in Mfuleni.
13. Mr Charlton Williams, Principal at Simonsberg Primary School in Kraaifontein.
14. Mr Bongani Dwlathi, Principal at Sonwabo Primary School in Gugulethu
15. Mr Abdusamad Ahmed, Acting Principal at Spes Bona High School in Athlone.
16. Ms Zameka Mfubesi, Principal at Umyeso Wama Apile High School in Grabouw.
17. Mr Deon Bougardt, Principal at Wavecrest Primary School in Mitchell's Plain (Rocklands)
18. Mr Sonamzi Batandwa, Principal at Welwitschia Primary School in Delft.

Please see attached Fact Sheet for more information on the Principals Academy Trust.

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