

NMMU TEACHING DEVELOPMENT & INNOVATION FUND (TDIF) REPORT ON BEYOND THE CLASSROOM (BtC) 2015

Department of Student Governance and Development

The Department of Student Governance and Development (SGD) contributes towards the holistic development of all students by providing opportunities for involvement in co-curricular activities which will assist students in attaining the desired graduate attributes. SGD's strategic priority involves ensuring a quality learning experience for all students through providing adequate and appropriate development/support to enable students to realise their full potential. SGD strives to ensure an optimal student life experience for all.

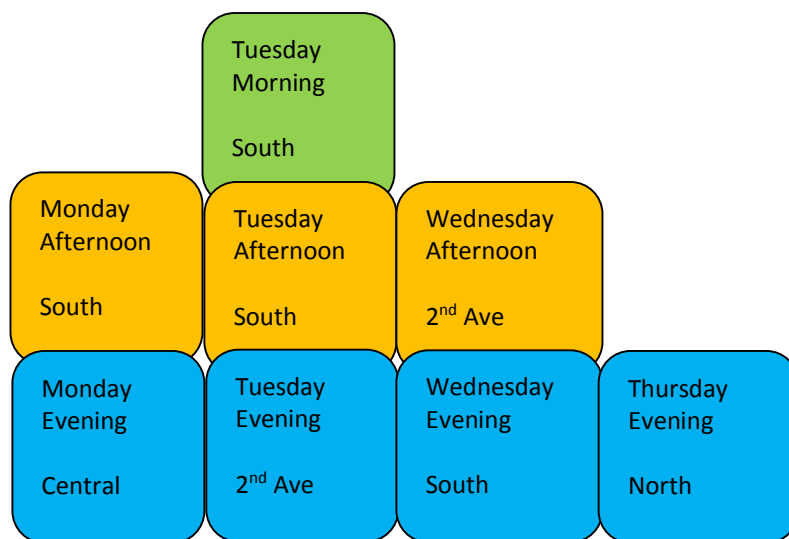
Background

SGD began a leadership programme in 2009 with 29 students, through student interest and demand it has grown annually to 227 students completing the programme in 2015. The aim was to expand the BtC leadership program into faculties and through an accessible off-campus venue while simultaneously growing and developing new BtC facilitators. A proposal was submitted to TDIF and a budget of R49 970 was approved for 2015. This is the second year that BtC has received TDIF funding.

STRATEGIC FUNDING BtC 2015

BtC 2015

Classes were held on North, South, and 2nd Ave campuses and a class at the Athenaeum in the suburb of Central in Port Elizabeth



306 students began the programme, but due to various factors ranging from time management, class clashes, job demands and academic pressure, 227 students completed the programme. Unfortunately, due to the national crises at universities surrounding the Fees Must Fall Movement we were unable to guarantee the safety and security of staff and students. A decision was taken to cancel the BtC breakfast due to be held at Bayworld on the 27 October. A more informal and much smaller event took place on the 6 November. Due to the last minute change many students and staff were unable to attend. However, the function went ahead as best it could under the

circumstances. Within 7 days of opening the Co-curricular Record for BtC requests, 64% of the students have already requested BtC to be acknowledged on their CCR.

Specific project aims for 2015 were to:

- **Continue to offer BtC classes at a venue in Central, convenient to off-campus students, contributing to a vibrant student life and the holistic development of a previously underserved population**

The class in Central has grown in size and this has definitely been a successful decision. An area of concern is safety and security of students as they make their way back to their accommodation. One student was mugged on the way home after class. Due to the lack of numbers at Missionvale campus, we were unable to offer a class at Missionvale. As always we will offer the opportunity for a class at Missionvale in 2016, though it will only be confirmed once the appropriate numbers are reached. Many Missionvale students stay in central and this impacted the Monday night class in Central, where we saw an increase in numbers.

- **Strengthen collaboration with academic faculty by providing targeted BtC classes in conjunction with the Faculty of Education, contributing to a vibrant student life and strengthening the links between academics and student affairs**

The challenge with the Faculty of Education students continues to be their ability to be on campus for classes for the duration of the programme. This will continue to be a challenge in the future. Another concern was the introduction of a second class at 2nd Ave during the afternoon, when the 2nd semester timetable change was implemented some students were unable to attend and/or attend another class and had to withdraw from the programme.

- **Creation of a professional development track for potential BtC facilitators, both within Student Governance and Development and the broader NMMU community**
- **Grow the pool of competent facilitators to accommodate the increase in applications**

The staff member within SGD who continued with facilitation, has completed her second year. In 2015 she was able to take up her role as the main facilitator with minimal support from her mentor. Her responsibilities were increased and included all administration and organization for the class and assessment of her portfolios. She has indicated that she would like to continue as a BtC facilitator for 2016, and it is envisaged that she will take up the 2nd Avenue afternoon class. Another staff member at the NMMU was appointed on a secondary contract to assist with BtC classes.

Research

- **Michigan State University and the Student Life Experience Survey**

In collaboration with Michigan State University the Student Life Experience Survey H14-HED-TLM-005] ran during September/October 2105. 6 NMMU students were sponsored 6 tablets to use to assist students in completing the survey. The survey was advertised on the NMMU communique for all campuses, including George. 4725 surveys have been uploaded. The winner of the R700 lucky draw was announced end of October.

Data from 2014 has been collected however, due to the Dean of Student Affairs position been filled by the HOD of Student Governance and Development, and an LtD member taking up the acting HOD position, the Leadership and Development Unit (LtD) has been a staff member short since August 2014. This has impacted the ability of the LtD unit to deliver on expectations. Though the final report has not been collated, it should be completed by January 2016. Data for 2015 has

been gathered but not yet finalised. The priority is to appoint a contract person to assist with the staff shortage and to have the research data written up as soon as possible. Questions in the Student Life Experience Survey allow specific data to be drawn with regards to BtC students. This will enable us to see if the learning outcomes as displayed on the CCR are in line with the BtC student experiences.

Austin Johnson, an intern from St Cloud, assisted with a literature review on ways to assess and measure student leadership programmes. He drew information from a number of institutions which he presented to the department. He covered a variety of possible options and presented a good introduction which could be used for future research.

BtC Tasks

- **BtC supports the Sweethearts Foundation**

The Sweethearts foundation is a non-profit organization that collaborates with companies like Interwaste, The Polystyrene Recycling Company and Zibo in order to recycle plastic tags (and bottle tops). In exchange for 15kg bread-tags or 150kg bottle tops, the Sweethearts gets a wheelchair, which they then hand over to a disabled person. BtC students have been collecting bread tags throughout the year and over 10kgs were handed over to the Sweet Hearts Foundation on Monday 28 September. The hand over was featured on the NMMU <https://www.facebook.com/NMMU4U/photos/pb.136889286362813.-2207520000.1448101291./969805939737806/?type=3&theater> and the Sweet Hearts Foundation webpage. The Foundation has set a challenge to donate 180 wheelchairs by January 2016 <https://www.facebook.com/sweetheartsfoundation>



Bread tag handover to the Sweetheart Foundation

- **BtC – Acts of Gratitude**

To help foster the culture of giving back and in order to build a community of socially responsible leaders, BtC students are required to take the time to show their gratitude and spread some kindness. Each student is given two blue thank you cards and they are required to find two people to receive them. Each card has space where the student is required to write the reason for the thank you. Once students have hand over the card they have to reflect on their experiences in their portfolios. This task has seen many powerful stories emerging and students have been astounded at the response of many of the recipients.

- **BtC R1 from 5 Friends**

One of the learning lessons in the programme is the understanding that together everyone can make a difference. And that is what BtC members and five friends did; R1 at a time. We often think that we need to ask for large donations in order to change someone's life, but this project was simply to ask 5 friends for R1 each. As part of Professor Swartz's personal commitment to the University's 10-year celebrations, he climbed Mount Fuji in Japan on 7 August to raise funds for academically-deserving but financially-needy students at NMMU and BtC students donated **R3037** towards the #climb4nmmu campaign.

- **BtC Leadership in Practice talks**

As part of the BtC programme each class has a scheduled time with a speaker from the business community. For 2015 the following speakers presented Lessons on Leadership, Judith Campbell from Plascon, Luvuyo Bangazi from MBDA, Thandeka Williams from JHB Stanlib, Bev Hancock KL Institute, Jane Stevenson from Jane Stevenson & Ass and Deon Joubert SJM Flex.

- **Blended Learning**

All BtC students are required to complete an on-line module for BtC, using Moodle. It is apparent that not all students are competent using Moodle, and in some cases are completely unaware of the site and struggle with the technology. This exercise works to assist students with their Moodle competency and thus potentially impact their academic performance.

Volunteer Work

- **General volunteer work**

All BtC students completed 20 hours of community service, with many students committing more than the required 20 hours. At a minimum, 227 students x 20 hours (minimum) = **4540** hours. Students could undertake their community outreach within their faculties, societies or in the broader community environment. Students are not allowed to receive payment or academic credit for their work. Volunteer work ranged from tutoring at their previous school, helping at a crèche or assisting at an old-aged home. All volunteer work is signed off by the relevant beneficiary. A number of students assisted at the NMMU Open Day and helped marshal at the NMMU Sports Department fun runs. With contacts formed with Vodacom and Zsports, students also signed up and volunteered at the Iron Man, the Colour Run, Muck Run, Urban Run, Great Train Race and the Human Race.

- **Alice Award**

<http://news.nmmu.ac.za/News/Students-making-a-difference>

Each year, a special award is made to a student or students who goes/go way beyond what is expected of them in their volunteer work. This year, the ALICE Award (A Little Involvement Changes Everything) the first recipient was Pamela Mabiza a 2nd year, Agricultural Management Diploma student. Pamela spent her time sorting donations of clothing and helped with general administrative assistance at the Hospice Shop, realising that with the little she could do, it could help raise funds for those who needed care. Taking it further and using what she had learnt through her studies to help others, she also volunteered at the Toch Charity Shop in central and helped set up their agricultural garden. The second recipient was Lumka Makeka, a 2nd year Public Relations Diploma student. Lumka was a lead facilitator at the Reading Space Club in Masibambane Senior Secondary School in KwaZakhele, working with the Unako Community Based Movement. She spent her Saturday mornings assisting learners in Grade 8 and 9 with reading skills.

Lumka says: "When I started, my objective was to complete the BtC minimum required hours of volunteering. Little did I know that I would fall in love with the reading space, I just could not stop".

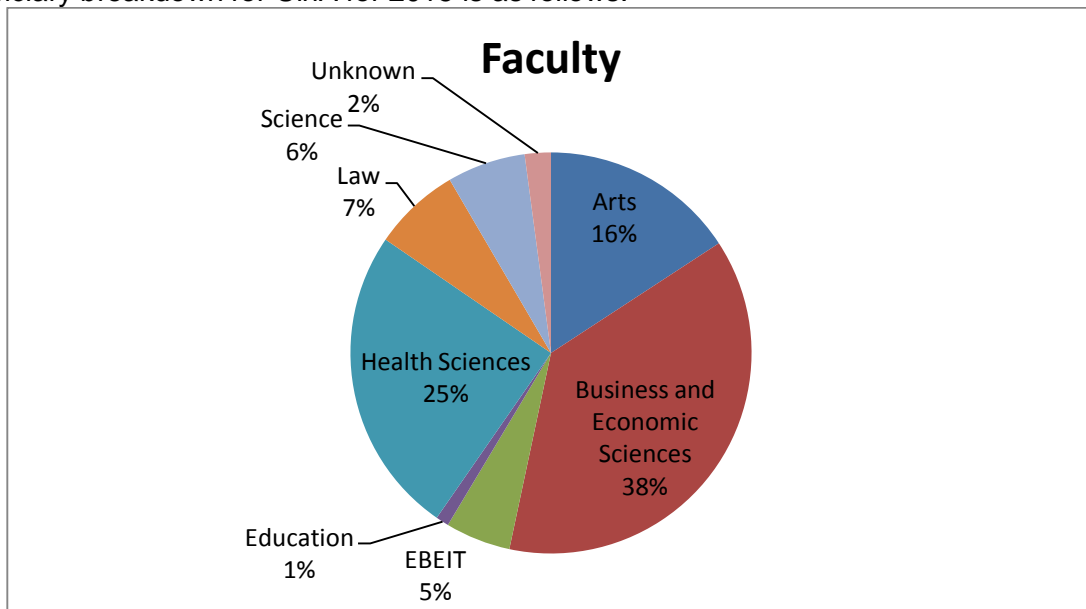


- **Student Volunteer Programme (SVP) with Unity in Africa Foundation**

In 2015 a total of 285 students volunteered a total of **4804** hours towards the Unity in Africa Foundation programmes. 1332 hours of intervention was committed during the first semester's 6 week programme and 1086 hours during the second semester. Students volunteered at Walmer Homework Club, Maranatha, EP Children's Home, Lovestory, Endangered Species, Mama Joyce, Ikamva, Heatherbank and Zanethemba. Student volunteers assisted with homework, mathematics, English literacy, computers, and played and assisted with general needs at the beneficiaries.

Other outreach interventions included marketing at pop up campaigns on campus, marketing the Steps to Educate Trail Run at running clubs, beach clean-ups, a conservation walk with Hermitage House, assisting and marshalling at both the PwC Great Zuurberg Trek and the Stonehouse Capital Zuurberg Challenge and assisting Zanethemba to move premises. A total of 2386 hours were clocked during various impact days.

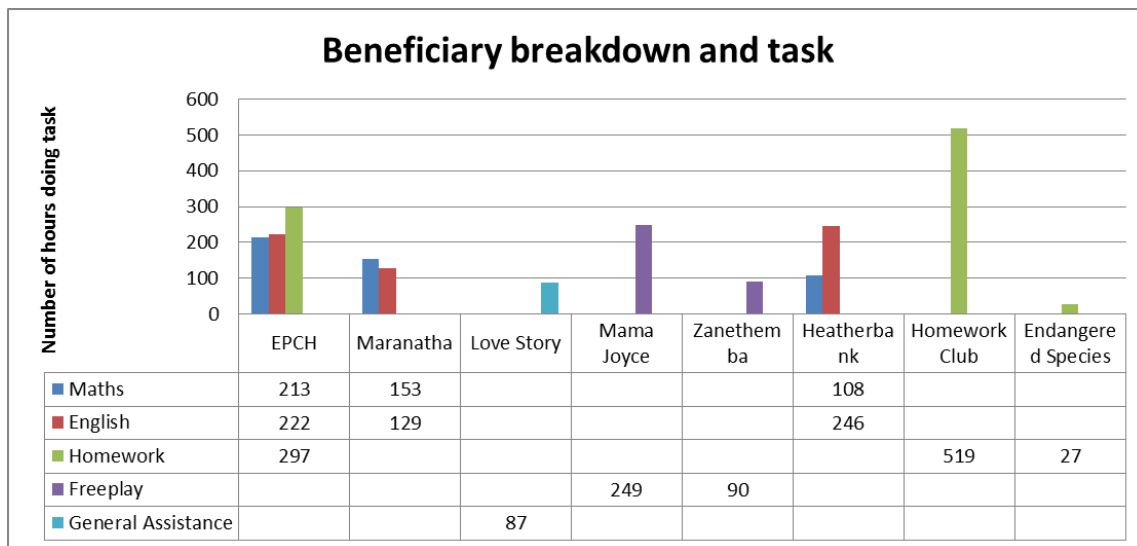
Beneficiary breakdown for UinA for 2015 is as follows:



The biggest complement of volunteers 38% come from the Business & Economic Sciences Faculty and the second biggest complement from the Faculty of Health Sciences 25%.

1st Year 17%	2nd Year 30%	3rd Year 41%	4th Year 7%	Honours 3%	Masters 2%
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The majority of the students are in their 3rd year 41%, with 30% in their 2nd Year.



NMMU student volunteers

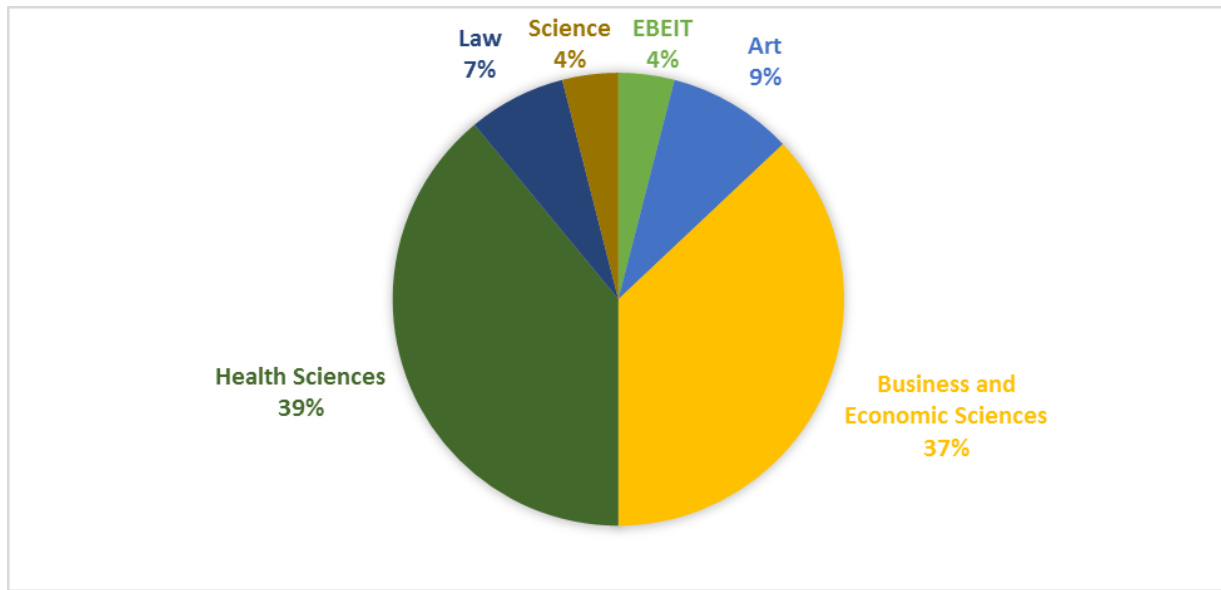
Other Opportunities

- **UinA/NMMU Women of Worth Programme**

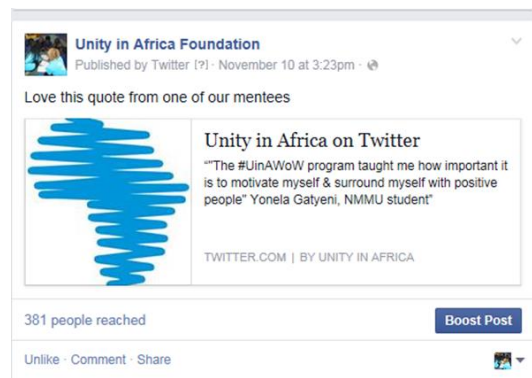
In collaboration with Unity in Africa and the Department of Student Governance and Development a new programme Women of Worth (WOW) was piloted in 2015. The purpose is to inspire, encourage and motivate women students at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University to acquire life and leadership skills in order to enable them to develop their full potential. Mentees were sourced from BtC graduates and present BtC students. The mentors are from all fields of the workforce – from the home executive to the chartered accountant. The response from mentors and mentees was overwhelming with **40** mentors and **72** mentees being matched. The event culminated in a High Tea on 5 September 2015, where the audience was addressed by motivational speaker Alison Botha.

The response to the programme has been very positive from both mentee and mentor perspectives. A number of issues have been re-assessed and formal documentation has been drawn up for 2016.

Breakdown of Woman of Worth participants:



The Faculties represented are Arts 9%, Business and Economic Science 37%, EBEIT 4%, Health Sciences 39%, Law 7% and Science 4%.



- **Chats with Women 2015**

The Chats with Women were held during Diversity Month. All female NMMU students were invited and WOW students were strongly recommended to attend. **107** students attended the workshops.

SPEAKER	COMPANY	TOPIC
Ms Cindy Dickson:	Investec	Your financial future: Things every woman should know
Sr Nokulunga Ngwekazi	NMMU Campus Health Service:	Be healthy, stay healthy: Things every woman should know
Coba Ferreira:	Life Coach	Violence in the Family: Things every woman should know
Sanet Swart:	HR Manager Ellies	Harassment in the workplace: Things every woman should know

- **Finance Talks**

The Unity in Africa Foundation together with the Department of Student Governance and Development has enlisted the support of industry leaders and corporate partners to address students at the NMMU on preparing their financial future. Four workshops were presented, General Finances, Basic Investments, Credit and Savings and Planning for your Future. **142** students attended the four talks.



BtC/UinA Leadership Talks 2015 The first talk was delivered by Buhle Gumede, who is a Financial Accountant at Kansai Plascon.

- **Backpack to Briefcase:**

Two Backpack to Briefcase programmes were offered in 2015. One in the first semester and one in the second. It is designed to provide students with the opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and experience needed to transition from university to professional life. The three required events that make up the Backpack to Briefcase Programme are:

	Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3
Topic	Curriculum Vitas and Covering Letters	Interviewing	Networking

To end the workshops, students were guided by a moderator through the steps of formal dining at an interactive etiquette dinner hosted by a professional from industry. 63 students completed the programme in 2015.

From Male, 2nd Year, Economics

Afternoon

Jennifer.

Wanted to take this time and thank you very much for all that you have taught us and the opportunities you gave us, teaching us to start taking control of our careers, I'm sure if it wasn't for you and BtC most of would be a bit lost. I enjoyed your classes and found them very informative and constructive, they have surely helped me to grow. Thanks

International Partnerships

- **St Cloud State Intern**

We were fortunate to have the services of Austin Johnson, from St Cloud State, who completed a six month internship with the department. His roles and responsibilities varied from assisting with research, co-presenting BtC classes, helping with technology, administration and attending volunteer sites. Although he was here to learn, the department gained tremendously from his input. Austin was able to contribute new ideas, see things from a different perspective and share his knowledge with staff and students alike. His input and assistance impacted not only the BtC programme but the co-curricular activities offered by SGD. This opportunity came about through relationship building with St Cloud State and we hope to have other interns in future to further develop BtC.

- **St Cloud State University**

10 St Cloud students began email contact with 10 students from NMMU in January. They kept in regular contact until they met up for lunch with their international email buddy from St Cloud, on the 6 March.

- **Michigan State University**

Prior to their arrival in South Africa, 6 NMMU students and 6 Michigan State University students emailed each other for eight weeks as part of an email buddy programme. When the MSU students arrived in South Africa for a visit they met up with their SA counterpart. Sharing lunch together, students continued with their learning and understanding of each other's cultures and diversity.

Michigan State University students also attended the Beyond the Classroom (BtC) Leadership class on Thursday night on North Campus. They offered a lunch time workshop specifically for the BtC students "Finding meaning in their volunteer work". 32 students attended. MSU students were taken to visit three volunteer sites, Homework club and Mama Joyce in Walmer Township and Endangered Species in Hellenvale in the northern area.

Meeting was held with MSU staff to continue with the research collaboration of the student life experience survey.



MSU at Mama Joyce a crèche in Walmer Township

Collaboration with Faculty

- The IT department from the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and IT requested a presentation to their First Year students during Orientation.
- The NMMU Health Unit send their requests for assistance to BtC students who assist with health activities and programmes. BtC students assisted the Campus Health Services on all campuses during their Health Week on 3rd – 6th August.
- Disability Unit is supported by the BtC students who volunteer as scribes.
- BtC students assisted as the student representatives at the Siphumelele Workshop held at the Marine Hotel.
- BtC students volunteered as Marshalls at the Sports Departments fun runs.
- BtC students participated in the Human Race held on campus on Saturday 10 October.
- <https://www.facebook.com/NMMU4U/photos/pb.136889286362813.-2207520000.1448101272./979025552149178/?type=3&theater>
- Article on BtC appeared in the School of Management Sciences, News, Issue 2
- **Business Women's Association (BWA) Grade 12 Workshop**
On the 17 April, the BWA/Grade 12 workshop was held with 14 NMMU students facilitating at a table of 10 learners and 1 NMMU student presented. Feedback received has been positive. Interestingly, two students who went to facilitate this year had both attended the BWA Grade 12 workshop when they were at school. They both said they had found it so motivating when they were at school, and that is why they wanted to volunteer to facilitate this year.

67 Hours Moodle Site

Many students on completing BtC often ask, what next? As all BtC students complete 20 hours of volunteer work, it was decided to pilot an online programme, which would enable students to continue to put into practice their learning from BtC. Working from the principle of the name of the institution "Nelson Mandela" and expanding on 67 minutes held annually across the country, students are encouraged to accomplish 67 hours of volunteer work.

Students who wished to complete the 67 Hours programme are required to record and track their volunteer hours and reflect their experiences online, before submitting for approval on their Co-Curricular Record.

The Moodle site was designed specifically to provide students with easier access and a more student friendly process, for all students across all campuses. With the assistance of Simon Goldstone from CTLM and Austin Johnson, international intern at SGD, the programme was

designed and piloted with BtC graduates only. Testing of the newly designed 67 Hours Moodle site was done with 8 students on 3 March. After feedback and recommendations, minimal changes were made and the final pilot product showcased on the 11 March. 23 students attended training and signed up to pilot the new programme.

Approval was received from RECH to use 25 questions from the original protocol [H14-HED-TLM-005] as part of the reflection process for students who wished to complete the 67 hours volunteer programme.

On recommendations from Ronelle Plaatjes from CTLM, Tracy Beck from School of Accounting on 2nd Ave requested a meeting, and after a show and tell session, requested that the students who mentor in her faculty be part of the pilot process. This was agreed upon, and it has been a valuable partnership and has enhanced the learning and design of the site.

Realising that, as the students began to use the site, we would need more support, a call was made to BtC students to volunteer to assist. Andile Keke, a 2nd Year IT student volunteered and has been assisting with any Moodle concerns the students may have with the 67 Hours site. He has been allocated an office in the SGD building and he works on an appointment basis with the students.

Changes need to be made to the Moodle site and a meeting has been held to implement the suggested recommendations. Valuable input has been gained from the pilot programme and will assist in a better product for 2016. It is clear that many students are challenged when it comes to using the Moodle site and it is evident that training needs to be included as part of the programme.

- **Engagement Management Information System**

A meeting was held, 10 February, with Belinda Du Plooy from The Centre for Academic Engagement & Collaboration (CAEC) to discuss the Engagement Management Information System, and the role that SGD plays in the process. On the 18 February the 67 Hours Programme was entered onto the system and later on in the term the BtC volunteer work was captured.

As part of the 10 Year Celebrations we submitted an entry for the NMMU 10 lines-10 years Engagement competition. The 67 Hours project received special mention from the evaluators and we were awarded R5 000.

- **Master of Ceremonies**

A Master of Ceremonies programme was advertised to all NMMU students via the NMMU communiqué. 37 students attended sessions on Saturday, 7 March, and 10 March. 35 students completed the final Master of Ceremonies class which was facilitated by Mr Pieter Swart 17 March. Certificates have been printed and collected by students. This programme is in the process of being added to the CCR.

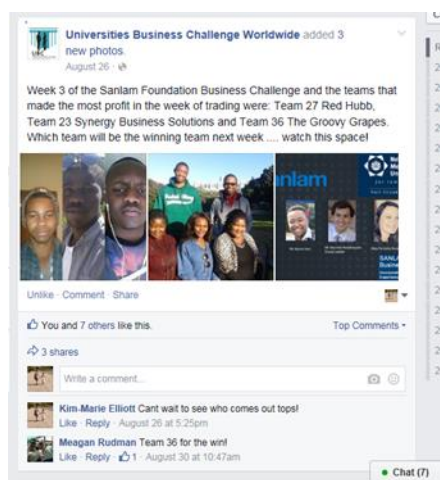
- **SANLAM Foundation Business Challenge**

The Sanlam Foundation Business Challenge is an on-line business competition custom designed, developed and supported by Learning Dynamics for the NMMU. It is a business simulation which demonstrates the business skills and team work needed to run a successful enterprise.

155 students signed up to run a simulated wine bar over a period of four weeks. Teams were encouraged to seek a mentor to help guide them in their business decisions, and for 2015 1 senior student, 2 lecturers and 3 business people volunteered as mentors.

Take a look at the teams on www.facebook.com/ubcworldwide

	Male		Female				Total
Gender	79		76				155
	Business and Economic Sciences	Sciences	Law	Health Sciences	IT and Built Environ	Arts	Total
Faculty	111	15	6	1	15	7	155
	1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year	Honours	Masters		Total
Year	19	47	69	16	4		155



Institutional impact

A junior staff member has had the opportunity to enhance their own skills set and begin their journey of professional development. Additionally two experienced facilitators have been utilised to expand the BtC team and as a result session offerings. Finally, towards the end of 2015, the BtC co-ordinator was approached by Dr Joe Zeelie to look at the possibility of extending BtC to George Campus for 2016. Discussions and meetings have been held and the department will be running BtC in George campus for 2016. A pilot group of no more than 30 is envisaged for the first year. Costs will be covered by the Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences. The BtC team continues to look for collaborations with faculties to work towards creating a seamless learning environment to holistically support and develop student learning. In line with Vision 20/20, BtC contributes to creating a vibrant student life on campus.

BtC Graduates continue to shine:

- **Vice-Chancellors Excellent in Leadership**

Ibanathi Nonkeneza (BtC Graduate 2014) was awarded the Vice-Chancellors Award for Excellence in Leadership at the Achievers Dinner in October.

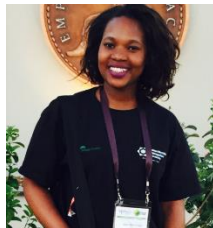


- **GM Herald Finalist**

Ryan Karsagen, **BtC graduate 2014**, was humbled upon receiving the Top 3 finalist award for the GM Herald Youth Citizen of the Year.



- **Vice-Chairperson of PsySSA the Psychological Society of South Africa**



Congratulations to **Zilondiwe Goge**, a 3rd year BA Psychology student and **2014 BtC graduate** who has been elected as Vice-Chairperson of PsySSA (the Psychological Society of South Africa) student division for 2016 at the recent PsySSA annual congress that took place in Johannesburg recently.

Zilondiwe is the current NMMU Psychology Society chairperson and Veritas Residence Secretary.
Well done!



Special Mention for 2015

- **Volunteer work**



From Left to Right: Ms Leanne Goodberry, Mr Stuurman Sibulele, 2nd year Agricultural Management, Faculty of Science, Mr Dyakopu Sandile, 2nd year Agricultural Management, Faculty of Science.

All students on the Beyond the Classroom Leadership (BtC) programme are required to complete 20 hours of volunteer work. It is really wonderful to receive a phone call from Ms Leanne Goodberry, Manager of the Central Clinic – who could not stop singing the praise of two of our NMMU students. Mr Sibulele Stuurman and Mr Sandile Dyakopu, both 2nd year Agricultural Management students in the Faculty of Science are volunteering at the Community Health Centre in Central, Port Elizabeth. Not only are the NMMU students cleaning, scrapping paint and removing chewing gum, but they do it in such a manner that they spread joy and laughter throughout the building and are passing on their enthusiasm to others. Going way over their 20 hours and giving back to others – Living the NMMU value of UBUNTU. Flying that BtC Flag High!

- **Herald Supplement:**

BtC programme featured in the Engagement in the EC community supplement to the Herald, Thursday, 27 August 2015.



GROWING LEADERS ... Akhona Gcasamba (left) and Leizel Jagers (middle), first- and third-year Psychology students, respectively, are participants in this year's Beyond the Classroom (BtC) leadership programme, coordinated by NMMU's Kim-Marie Elliott.

Voluntary work programme transforms lives

"THE students who volunteer at our centre are good role models for the children – and also give our children a sense of possibility."

So says Travis Marshall, programme manager of the Eastern Province Child and Youth Care Centre, which each year welcomes about 15 student volunteers from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU).

The students help the children with their homework, coach sport and run stimulating educational programmes for them. "They are not being selfish – they are giving back. This is the type of attitude we want our children to have."

The students are members of an innovative student leadership programme, which requires participants to give 20 hours of voluntary community work, and is creating a new generation of responsible citizens.

"We've had students who continue volunteering

long after their 20 hours are complete," said Marshall.

Since 2009, students across all disciplines and walks of life have been signing up for the eight-month NMMU-run programme – called Beyond the Classroom (BtC). Participation has grown to around 280 students a year. The BtC programme is also developing students for their future careers, by equipping them with skills that are likely to enhance their future employability.

The learning achieved through BtC reflects on their co-curricular record, an initiative pioneered by NMMU, in which students not only receive their academic record from the university, but also a formalised record of the learning achieved through out-of-the-classroom involvements. "It's about becoming responsible citizens," says BtC coordinator Kim-Marie Elliott.