



THE NELSON MANDELA METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY OUTREACH INITIATIVES 2013

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DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

CO-CURRICULAR OVERVIEW

In accordance with its *Vision, Mission, Values, Educational Purpose*, and desired *Graduate Attributes*, The Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) strives to actively engage students in learning through *inter alia* complementary learning experiences inside and outside of the classroom that prepare them for work and life. While formal learning takes place in the classroom, it is important to acknowledge the education and learning that a student gains from co-curricular involvement.

Student involvement in co-curricular activities is a critical part of the educational and learning experience provided at NMMU. Co-curricular activities provide an official avenue for students to learn and develop themselves holistically, to develop the attributes required of NMMU graduates and pursue their career and personal goals throughout their university experience.

The IS Strategic Plan and Operation Plan has four major areas of focus: **Build a Culture of Innovation, Enhance Campus Life and Student Success, Foster an Environment of Learning, and Engage the Community.**

THE 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 them in attaining the desired graduate attributes. Our strategic priorities involve ensuring a quality learning experience for all learners through providing adequate and appropriate academic and non-academic development/support to learners, enabling them to realise their full potential. We strive to ensure an optimal student life experience on all campuses and to enhance student employability.

The department runs a number of programmes that enable students to put into practise their learning, enhance their campus life and give back to their community. After the success of The Beyond the Classroom Leadership Programme (BtC) which is the flagship of such programming, the Department of Student Governance and Development realised the need to offer students opportunities to engage in community outreach activities. This would enable them to enhance the quality of life of others in the community while enriching their own learning experience at the NMMU.

67 HOURS

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 and opportunities created for them to accomplish 67 hours of community outreach. The 67 Hours programme was initiated as a pilot project in 2013.

The aim of 67 Hours is to establish opportunities for students to learn and gain valuable experience within the community. With the support of African Unity Foundation a number of community outreach programmes are offered to our students.

Community outreach projects are divided into long-term outreach, which is on-going and allows for a deeper impact over time, and impact days which are intense often once-off days for a short period of time.

In collaboration with AUF, we develop and maintain relationships with the community in order to determine the potential impact of our involvement and we work with experts to devise planning and training as to how best enhance student learning and benefit the community. Researching the impact of community outreach involvement and realising that it is important for students to be prepared for community outreach, all students are required to attend a pre-briefing which clearly outlines their roles and responsibilities as well as giving them advice and guidance on how to deal with the emotional aspect of giving back. For certain projects, students are required to attend training sessions, so that they are fully prepared for their role.

Due to the increase in administration and logistics in 2012, African Unity Foundation placed an intern under the supervision of the Senior Manager Leadership Training and Development, to assist with the projects. This will be continued in 2014. Both interns were/are NMMU students and completed the BtC

programme prior to being appointed.

The following long term community outreach projects were undertaken in 2013. Due to the students' academic timetables programmes are run on a 6 week basis each semester.

ZAMA SOUTH AFRICA

Zama South Africa is a youth based (NGO) which assists school aged children and their communities in the township of New Brighton in Port Elizabeth.

- **Unity in Africa**

Students were trained in art portfolio classes. These classes aimed at teaching self-confidence and values exploration and were implemented at ZAMA.



Volunteers at work at ZAMA SA

- **Mathematics**

A special programme has been developed specifically for the learners and NMMU students were trained in how to use the modules in their sessions. Mathematics sessions take place weekly, on a one-on-one basis with learners.

- **Reading**

A special reading programme has been developed specifically for the learners and the NMMU students were trained in how to use the modules in their sessions. Reading takes place weekly, on a one-on-one basis with learners.



Volunteers at Mathematics training

EASTERN PROVINCE CHILDRENS HOME (EPCH)

The EPCH is a children's home run in Port Elizabeth, which cares for over 104 children from areas throughout the Eastern Cape.

H3 - Helping Hands for Homework at EPCH

The NMMU runs a Helping Hands for Homework project, where learners at the home are assisted individually every afternoon from Monday to Wednesday with homework.

- **Netball at EPCH**

In order to encourage “Healthy Body, Healthy Mind”, learners at EPCH are offered the opportunity to develop their netball skills. Students assist with netball coaching and encourage exercising twice a week.



Volunteers at EPCH

MARANATHA STREETWORKER TRUST

Maranatha is a street work action organisation in Port Elizabeth. It cares for vulnerable children and destitute adults in an attempt to restore their human dignity. There are approximately 80 child and adult permanent residents at Maranatha. Their request was for an active life-skills after-school programme to assist with the children’s developmental needs. After the initial assessment and consultations it was decided to implement the Unity in Africa Portfolio project and Sport at the home.



Learners working on their Unity in Africa Portfolio project

HUMAN DIGNITY CENTRE

The Human Dignity centre in Walmer township, runs a primary school whose aim is to provide quality education and raise the level of English literacy and numeracy. After the initial assessment and consultations it was decided to implement the Unity in Africa Portfolio project and Sport at the home.



Sport



Unity in Africa Portfolio

SOPHAKAMA

The Sophakama Support Organisation delivers services to the community from a container in Joe Slovo Township Ward 41. One of their aims is to offer Children Services including feeding and after school programmes as well as recreational and sporting initiatives. They have 220 children participating in their

programmes. Using the Joe Slovo Primary School classrooms and fields, we offer Cricket, Mathematics and Unity in Africa portfolio projects for Sophakama.



Volunteers teaching Mathematics

HEATHERBANK SCHOOL

Heatherbank Farm School provides education for 60 underprivileged children, many who walk to school from Walmer Township. At the request from the school, we are offering sport and play opportunities to the learners. There are discussions underway to include the reading and the mathematics programmes in the second semester.

AURORA

Aurora is a Centre that caters for the physically and mentally challenged children and adults in Port Elizabeth. After consultations, it was decided that students would focus on play for the children. Students went to afternoons a week.

Other opportunities

Supporting Kevin Paul when in Port Elizabeth.



Volunteering at a Wine Paring Function



IMPACT DAYS

STONEHOUSE CAPITAL MTB CHALLENGE - ZUURBERG: Impact Day

The StoneHouse Capital Zuurberg Mountain Bike Challenge took place in picturesque Addo / Zuurberg Mountain area. 42 Students assisted with marshalling of the Children's 5km Fun Race and general assistance to Stonehouse and CyclePro. Funds raised benefit the local community through employment and educational sponsorships.



Volunteers at the MTB Challenge

Sophakama: Impact Day



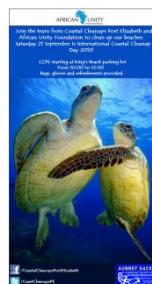
Maintenance of the area: Building a mosaic at the entrance

Heatherbank Impact Week

Students spent a week during the June/July holidays cleaning and fixing up a bigger venue for the school to use, as well as helping at the holiday club.



Beach Clean Ups



4 Beach clean ups were organised along the Port Elizabeth coast.

For 2013

AUF NMMU student volunteers contributed **6 076 hours** of community service in 2013.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM (BtC)

All students participating in BtC are required to do twenty hours of active community outreach. This can be done via the structured community outreach programmes available through the Department of Student Governance and Development, or students complete their service when they return to their communities during the holidays. Students are required to submit a completed reflection and signed log sheet to confirm their participation.

In 2013, 217 students committed a minimum of 20 hours = **4 340 hours**

At the 2013 BtC Certificate Ceremony in Port Elizabeth 217 BtC Leaders received BtC certificates and two students were awarded the ALICE AWARD.

Many students contribute more than their required 20 hours. The Alice award is presented to students who go above and beyond their social responsibilities on the co-curricular leadership programme.



*GIVING BACK ... Students Nicole Grundlingh (second from left) and Mignon du Preez (second from right) were the joint Alice Award winners at the annual breakfast prize-giving of the Beyond the Classroom Leadership programme. This award recognises students who really go above and beyond in giving back to the community and living the BtC principles. They are joined by BtC programme coordinators Student Governance's **Deidre Potgieter** (far left) and **Kim Elliott** (far right)*

SIFE / ENACTUS

Enactus, known before October 2012 as Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE), is an international non-profit organization that works with leaders in business and higher education to mobilize university students to make a difference in their communities while developing the skills to become socially responsible business leaders. Students are required to use business concepts to develop outreach projects that improve the quality of life and standard of living for people in need. A national competition is held which provides a forum for teams to present the results of their projects, and to be evaluated by business leaders serving as judges.

Red Location Precinct

In collaboration with the Red Location Museum unemployed women in the Red Location were trained in basic business skills. Due to unrest and closure of the museum we were unable to complete the last two classes.



Students and the Women's group at the Red Location Meeting

Ray Mhlaba Centre

The centre consists of a coffee shop, conference facility and skills training centre which empowers over 104 youths and equips them with practical skills needed for the business world. During 2012 ENACTUS NMMU assisted in the initial phase of the revamping of the coffee shop and the design of advertising material for the centre.



Conyngham Coffee Shop

. In 2013 the continued with

- Continued revamping Coffee Shop
- Designed a bill board and distributed flyers
- Menu re-designed and prices adjusted
- Gas sponsorship from Easigas
- Water tank sponsorship from Nedbank
- Started a veggie garden at tank area
- Sell crafts made at skills centre
- Distributed flyers

Sonyama Centre

Hydroponic Tunnel and Water tank

A needs analysis revealed the need for a hydroponic tunnel and water tank to assist the sustainability of the soup kitchen.

Community members were educated on gardening skills and maintenance of the tunnel.



Smart Art

13 Unemployed ladies attended 3 workshops on how to use re-cycled items to make craft work.



CONCLUSION

SGD delivers high quality educational programs/initiatives that engage the community and our students. However, due to budget constraints the growth of programmes will be severely restricted and expansion possibilities would be limited. Developing future leaders is critical for the success of the NMMU, but also

the nation. The South African government, industry professionals and international benchmarks all regularly assert the importance of continued leadership development within the youth of South Africa and the SGD programmes continue to play a significant role in meeting these demands.