

Supporting staff-led and other outreach initiatives with scholarly outputs

Sharing our engagement initiatives

ENGAGEMENT at NMMU refers to community, industry and other outreach initiatives that integrate teaching, learning and research and also have scholarly outputs.

High quality engagement work conducted by staff was showcased at the recent first colloquium on engagement organised by the Centre for Academic Engagement and Collaboration (CAEC). It also reviewed NMMU's progress towards its Vision 2020 engagement goals.

Best practice case studies were presented by some of the current and previous winners of the NMMU Engagement Excellence Awards as well as other staff involved with these actions.

"The quality of engagement projects at NMMU is of an exceptionally high quality. Seeing what others are doing and learning from one another,

helps to break through the silo-mentality often prevalent at universities.

"It also enhances collegial interaction about making a difference in our communities benefiting everyone," said **Dr Belinda du Plooy** of CAEC.

Interesting projects include:

- ▶ Human Movement Sciences' PasSport project where, for example, students create make-shift gyms in derelict buildings.
- ▶ Industrial Engineering's short-course programmes right through to the Women in Engineering Leadership Association (Wela) programme.
- ▶ The "white gold" cultivation of a gae to produce fossil biofuel briquettes invented by InnoVenton which could create

thousands of jobs through recycling.

- ▶ The Govan Mbeki Maths Development Unit's projects raising the standard of maths.
- ▶ Technology changing lives through interventions by NMMU's Centre of Community Technologies.
- ▶ George Campus's fundraising for less privileged students and
- ▶ Vegetable gardens by Agricultural students assisting the university's nutrition programme.

Colloquium presentations are posted on the CAEC web page and featured in the Life @NMMU blog.

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