



Thumbs up for learning! Ready for more, these Unisa maintenance workers not only empowered themselves but encouraged their communities to join C2A as well. Pictured with Dr Genevieve James are Billy Ntlhane, Phineas Kadiaka and Samuel Kadiaka.

A chance to learn, advance and touch the universe

With no barriers present, this programme brought in people who knew learning or craved learning. Students ranged from school leavers and the unemployed to professors, community leaders, NGO directors, business people and the general public, with important networks being formed. Above all, the programme brought in people who had never been part of a learning environment before.

Three maintenance staff members contracted to Unisa got a mindful when they attended a course entitled *Explore the universe – An introduction to astronomy*. Aware of their working hours, Billy Ntlhane, Samuel Kadiaka and Phineas Kadiaka enquired about classes that they could be part of after 16:00, and decided on the six one-hour sessions on astronomy. Focus attended one of these classes to share this pivotal learning experience with the men.

For Ntlhane, this course allowed him to move out of his comfort

Learning without limits is what Unisa's Campaign for learning aims to bring about through its **Chance 2 Advance (C2A)** programme. A wide selection of customised and relevant learning initiatives that encouraged and inspired informal learning, C2A was launched on 27 January and ran until 13 February at various locations in Pretoria, mainly the Sunnyside Campus.

zone and meet new people. "I was happy to make many new friends and talk about things like astronomy; even understand how it all works."

Sharing this sentiment, Kadiaka (Phineas) said he never envisioned "learning about the moon, stars and solar system. It was so interesting". Sharing this with his brother was also a special experience.

Said Kadiaka (Samuel), "I was

happy to learn about how the universe works with all other things in life and to be there with my brother". Despite the slight glitch of a language barrier on the first day, the men were soon in their element as the C2A team arranged translators for the duration of the course. In addition, students with disabilities were also catered for with the use of ushers and interpreters.

Really excited about his learning venture, Kadiaka (Samuel) also en-

couraged ten of his friends from Mamelodi to be part of this journey. A journey indeed, as the ten individuals joined the *Justice Trail – A reflective journey* course, which was a ten-stop reflective route across the City of Tshwane that remembered sites during the struggle for justice. Not wanting to miss out on the chance to advance, a group of youth from Diepsloot took the initiative to hire a taxi and attend one of the courses as well.

Thrilled at the means people have used to be part of this programme of learning, Project Manager, Dr Genevieve James, believes their goal was met.

"One of our deepest hopes for the programme was that we encourage a culture of learning and that we break down the walls between marginalised communities and learning initiatives." She added that "by breaking down these walls we can create greater access and destroy the myth that learning and education is for the elite".