

Each One Reach One Teach One...bravoooo Unisa!



Participants in *Become a language interpreter* facilitated by Dr Riah Mabule (CHS)

### What is Chance 2 Advance?

Chance 2 Advance (C2A) is a community engagement programme in the Division of Community Engagement and Outreach. Since its inception, C2A has moved from a summer school concept to a mega community-learning programme. The total number of participants since inception stands at just over 88 000.

The programme is working to:

- Encourage academic activism, engaged scholarship and collaboration with communities for the purpose of enhancing the social responsiveness of curriculum and research.
- Bridge the learning and knowledge gap experienced by distressed and marginalized communities through greater access to informal and lifelong learning.
- Address skills development by providing and encouraging relevant learning that can empower, enable and reinvigorate communities.

- Positively contribute towards student readiness to enter into post school education.
- Enable unemployed people to develop resilience and self-confidence to respond to challenging situations through capacity development and skills training.
- Nurture and train Unisa students who have the potential to provide transformative leadership.
  - Create networks and partnerships towards education and social revitalisation.

To register on the Chance 2 Advance database as a facilitator, please send a request for a workshop proposal form to [advance@unisa.ac.za](mailto:advance@unisa.ac.za) or contact Rose Mashaba on 012 429 3524.

**The Chance 2 Advance (C2A) programme hosted a large-scale community learning initiative in Atteridgeville, west of Pretoria from 26 June to 8 July 2017. This mega learning initiative aimed at providing critical learning opportunities for the community. The programme facilitated a shared learning space where academics and experts were able to interact with communities in a reciprocal learning environment.**

### **Preparation for the mega learning programme**

C2A worked closely with Atteridgeville stakeholders. The programme conducted an intensive series of training with community members who were equipped as C2A learning ambassadors. These members of the community are active in various community sectors. They are in the position to influence and enthuse others about the significance of learning. They understand the advantages of learning and can clearly discern the link between learning and a better life.

### **During the programme**

The programme consisted of 46 free workshops facilitated by 54 facilitators who are Unisa academics and experts from other universities in South Africa. The workshops were hosted across seven venues around Atteridgeville. The programme reached 6 405 participants.

Professor Peter Havenga, Executive Director of Academic Planner, visited the community and thanked participants for their overwhelming support of the initiative. He explained that the programme was designed in order to facilitate stronger links between communities and the higher education sector for the purpose of responsive scholarship and community development.

### **Feedback from participants in their own words**

**Patricia Zonde:** “Thank you to Unisa Chance 2 Advance programme for giving us a learning opportunity. I am 45 years old. I have purchased a computer for my family four year ago which I did not know how to use. Through the End User Computing workshop, I have learned how to operate a laptop. Now I am going to have a chance to use my home computer.”

**Thomas Mogashoa:** “I am 65 year old man, I have found Chance 2 Advance workshops so enriching. I have attending the Addressing Community Conflict workshop that provided me with tools to understand and respond to community conflicts. I am going to use skills gained to facilitator community meetings to ensure productivity, not destruction in our meetings.”

**Charles Ntjana:** “Attending Chance 2 Advance workshops such as Understanding Community Development assisted me to better understand my role as a community development worker in Atteridgeville. I have gained broader understanding in how I could become an active community practitioner.”

**Rute Gladys:** “I am a manager for Hope for Life in Atteridgeville. I have sent 38 staff members to attend and to fully participant in Chance 2 Advance workshops. My staff members and I serve in different committees such as health and social justice in the organisation. I am happy that we received more in-depth information on specific workshops that we have attended. The gained information will enable us to work and respond effectively and efficiently to the needs of our beneficiaries.”

## What the Unisans had to say

Unisa academics who served as facilitators also shared their learning experience as they interacted with the community:



Professor **Sumei van Antwerpen** (College of Economic and Management Sciences): "It was very well organised; the venue that was the Methodist Church had really good acoustics due to the fact that it is a round-shaped building; this worked well. I applaud the organisers for the effort that they have put in to it, to ensure that everything worked according to plan. The audience participated in the discussions, were lively and asked good questions. It is wonderful to see what a difference we can make to bring practical scenarios such as telephone etiquette and oral communication to the community that can be applied in the business environment."



Dr **David Mphuthi** (College of Human Sciences): "This programme is the best programme, and the attendance in Atteridgeville was more than good. I really feel that I can go on with this programme and make a difference in the lives of the people. The people were very hungry for the information especially with regard to health issues. This is a fulfilling adventure and makes one to feel that this is really a "Chance 2 Advance". The programme enhances my academic work, as it gave me the opportunity to stand in front of the class and teach. This is a really fulfilling and good feeling to be doing teaching and learning and interact with the participants. This programme also made me realise how much information I also needed to research so as to keep up to date with what is needed by the public."



**Malefa Malefane** (College of Economic and Management Sciences): "The C2A Atteridgeville programme, like other programmes that I have facilitated before, got me very excited and anxious to meet my group. More than what I had expected, there were more youth in my group, which to me indicated the eagerness of our youth to be self-empowered. The gender representability was fair, although there is a possibility that, overall, there were more female participants. The purpose of the workshop was to bring to the awareness of the participants that good budgeting is paramount in every household, irrespective of their economic status. Having raised this awareness, the participants shared their experiences of incidents where they engaged in impulsive spending. The participants were also enlightened on how greed leads to unnecessary expenditure, which is the likely cause of unsustainable debt.

I could not help but to be amazed at how the participants engaged with me and with one other when it came to proposing ways to move forward. They came up with a number of ideas that could help to foster a better financial future for themselves and their families. Back in the days when I first joined Unisa, the vision was ...*African university in the service of humanity*. These words are too powerful to be taken for granted. Therefore, by devoting my time to teach the underprivileged members of our society is a true service of humanity that I could offer during my career as an academic."

## And the social media buzz?

Recent Facebook posts by participants in their own words:



**Bradley Petersen:** "Hi chance to advance, I would like to thank you coz through your programme I got a job at a well-known company ... so thank you once again."

**Edmore Kanjekete:** "Each One Reach One Teach One...bravoooo UNISA."

**Gugulethu Mathenjwa:** "Thank you so much to UNISA Chance 2 Advance programme for giving us this opportunity to learn and to have more knowledge for free thank you so much UNISA"

## After the implementation of the programme

After the roll out of the mega learning programme, C2A prepared and distributed certificates of attendance for participants who had successfully participated in their workshops. The certificate distribution took place at the Atteridgeville Baptist Church from 27 to 28 July 2017. Participants came in numbers to collect their certificates. The room was filled with joy as participants received their certificates and took pictures to mark their achievement in lifelong learning.

*\*Submitted by the Division of Community Engagement and Outreach Office*



*Overcoming depression and coping with stress facilitated by Dr Janice Moodley (CHS)*



*Effective business writing skills facilitated by Vivian Hlatshwayo (CHS)*



*Save a life: Learn CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) workshop*



*Administrative skills facilitated by Prof. Sumei van Antwerpen and Dalinda Prinsloo (CEMS)*



Home-based fire safety facilitated by Malesela Alpheus Maema (Department: Protection Services)



Talk to Judge Takalani: Community legal matters facilitated by Judge Vincent Takalani Ratshibvumo (Acting Judge at the Regional Magistrates Court: Gauteng Division)



Prof. Peter Havenga (ED: Academic Planner) encouraging the Atteridgeville community



Atteridgeville Certificate Celebration from 27 to 28 July 2017: Some participants celebrating their achievement