

Liberating communities through lifelong learning



This year is set to be another one of intense activity for the Chance 2 Advance (C2A) programme.

Among the plans for 2014 is a mega community-learning initiative for the communities of Phoenix, Inanda, Ntuzuma, and KwaMashu. Early this year, the Phoenix Poverty Reduction Association, made up of school district superintendents, teachers and principals from the school districts north of Durban, contacted the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Narend Bajinath, with a special request to support the organisation's efforts in poverty alleviation. The PVC met with the group and discussed the nature and scope of Unisa's community-engagement activities in the light of national development imperatives with specific reference to the crisis of youth unemployment. C2A plans to support the affected communities

with a mega-learning initiative in July this year, which will entail more than 60 free workshops.

On the West Coast, C2A learning ambassadors from the community of Gugulethu met with project manager Dr Genevieve James to discuss the progress of the community since the massive C2A programme in Gugulethu last year. The learning ambassadors gave positive reports of people becoming employed, starting, and strengthening their own businesses, and spoke of the communities' increased awareness of social justice issues. Learning ambassadors received special certificates indicating their preparation and involvement in the highly successful Gugulethu programme. While in the Cape, C2A also conducted workshops in the communities of Rocklands, Mitchells Plain, and Bridgetown, Athlone. The C2A team was joined by Patricia Gouws of CSET's Robotics project. Gouws conducted workshops and a special Train-the-Trainer-Robotics programme in Athlone.



Chance 2 Advance project manager Dr Genevieve James and some participants of the Liberating Power of Reading class in Rocklands, Mitchell's Plain



C2A Gugulethu learning ambassadors celebrate their achievement.



Chance 2 Advance is under the strategic oversight of PVC Prof. Narend Baijnath.

In March, C2A training continued in Diepsloot at the special request of the Department of Social Development. Participants from the government's Community Worker Programme benefitted from a range of learning opportunities, including workshops on co-operatives, local economic development, entrepreneurship, financial management and victim empowerment.

C2A has designed its programme offerings in line with the Millennium Development Goals and the National Development Plan 2030. It is perfectly aligned to suit the community education and training needs outlined by the White Paper PSET. The programme has provided the opportunity for participating Unisa academics to amplify their community orientation through their contribution to the social justice mandate of the University. Visit the C2A Facebook page and website for updates. To participate as a facilitator, please send a request for a workshop proposal form to advance@unisa.ac.za.



Chance 2 Advance (C2A) is a community outreach programme in the Office of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor. Since its inception, C2A has moved from a summer school concept to a mega community-learning programme. It has implemented 50 learning initiatives containing over 400 workshops. Participants represented over 100 communities across five provinces. The total number of participants stand at just over 50 000.

The programme is working to:

- Bridge the learning gap experienced by disadvantaged and marginalised communities through greater access to informal and lifelong learning.
- Address skills development by providing and encouraging relevant learning that can empower, enrich 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.
- Encourage academic activism.
- Create networks and partnerships towards education and social revitalisation.