

# Unisa's Chance 2 Advance reaches Phoenix



The Chance 2 Advance team recently returned from a large-scale learning intervention in the community of Phoenix, north of Durban. Participants at this initiative included community members of KwaMashu, Inanda, Ntuzuma, Ottawa, Verulam, Bester, Durban Central, Effingham, Avoca Hills and the Durban South Basin, amongst others.

The programme contained a total of 73 workshops hosted across 14 venues throughout the Phoenix area. The programme was supported by 51 community learning ambassadors, 62 workshop facilitators, three Unisa student learning ambassadors, and two community liaisons. Over 7 000 people enthusiastically participated, showing their desire for learning and advancement.

According to project manager Dr Genevieve James, the programme is designed to encourage active citizenship, enable participation in the life of the economy, address social justice issues and mobilise relevant and user friendly knowledge for the purpose of community empowerment and nation building. James said the success of the programme was based on the commitment of the Chance 2 Advance team, Unisa academics, and students who selflessly share their knowledge, skills and resources with communities.

The Chance 2 Advance is a project in the Office of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (PVC). The PVC, Professor Narend Baijnath, visited the Chance 2 Advance programme to the delight of the community participants. He encouraged community members to fight against unemployment, poverty and social dysfunction by becoming well informed and seizing every opportunity for education and training. He highlighted Unisa's social commitment and celebrated the community's enthusiasm for learning as demonstrated by their support for the Chance 2 Advance programme.

Community members expressed their sincere thanks for the learning opportunity created by the programme and shared with the PVC how grateful they were that such an initiative could come to their struggling neighbourhoods. They were appreciative of Unisa, its management, and participating academic staff for reaching communities that have often been ignored and neglected.

Nondumiso Dayi attended several workshops and explained that it was her first opportunity to participate in a free learning programme of this nature. She expressed joy at being able to learn with neighbouring communities.

Moosa Zindele requested that the Chance 2 Advance programme extend its reach so that more people could benefit from more workshops.

Theresa Manilall, a local tuckshop owner, attended the entrepreneurship programme, and said: "The workshop has impacted me. The only business I knew was selling my products in

my tuckshop but now I am looking forward to being an entrepreneur and improving my business and income and going forward.”

Pulliah Naidoo shared how he had encouraged his granddaughter to read his Chance 2 Advance class notes on returning from his various workshops. Naidoo attended the Community Health and Safety: Emergency Management of Burns and Wounds workshop and provided his class notes to his granddaughter. The very next day his brother-in-law had an accident involving an angle grinder in which he sustained a serious injury to his arm. Naidoo’s granddaughter took determined action, and based on her reading of the notes, instructed him on what to do to lessen the bleeding. She kept the man calm and waited till medical emergency services arrived. Naidoo shared with participants the story of how the knowledge of what to do in a medical crisis can save a life. He encouraged all members of the community to continue with their learning pursuits and share what they learn with their families and networks.

Many participants shared a desperate plea for the return of the Chance 2 Advance programme. They expressed that this programme has created a platform for social cohesion and a platform for communities to learn about and share knowledge on a wide range of community and national development issues.

To participate as a Chance 2 Advance workshop facilitator, contact the Chance 2 Advance office at [advance@unisa.ac.za](mailto:advance@unisa.ac.za) to request for a proposal template.



Prof. Narend Bajinath (Unisa Pro-Vice-Chancellor) addresses members of the community at Chance 2 Advance workshops.



Magnate Ntombela (Unisa Durban Regional Manager) addresses members of the community at Chance 2 Advance workshops



Class photo of learning CPR.



Class photo of learning CPR.



Phoenix community learning ambassadors.



Some of the audience at Chance 2 Advance workshops.



Facilitator Dr Peter Mkhize (Unisa School of Computing) with participants in the End User Computing workshop.



Participants engaging in group work during the Maths Edge workshop.



Schools also participated in Chance 2 Advance workshops.





Class photo of Disability Sensitisation.



Facilitator Dr Jane Sethusha (Unisa Department of Early Childhood Development & Education) engaging with participants in the Early Childhood Development workshop.



Facilitator Gladys Lumadi (Unisa Department of Health Studies) engaging with participants in the Healthy Mother and Baby during Pregnancy workshop.



Participants of the Community Health and Safety: Emergency management of burns and wounds.



Dr Sarasvathie Reddy explaining CPR procedure in a practical demonstration during group wo



Class photo of participants of the Electricity Literacy & Career Opportunities workshops.



Prof. Narend Baijnath (Unisa Pro-Vice-Chancellor) and Facilitator Samuel Mtsweni (Unisa School of Computing) during the End User Computing workshop.



Facilitator Nina Eckersley demonstrating the correct procedure to apply relaxer in the Introduction to Hairdressing workshop.



Participants in the Introduction to Manicure & Pedicure workshop engaging in practicals with each other.



Facilitator Patricia Gouws (Unisa School of Computing) and I-SET colleagues.



Participants in Project Management workshop taking on a challenge by facilitators.



Class photo of participants of the Think Global, Act Local workshop.



Class photo of participants of the Local Economic Development workshop.



Facilitator Joseph Chisasa (Unisa Department of Finance, Risk Management & Banking) presenting at the Phoenix programme.



Class photo of participants of the Organic Gardening workshop.



Class photo of participants of the Introduction to Plumbing workshop.



Class photo of participants of the Social Entrepreneurship workshop