

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & INNOVATION UNIT HAS ITS FEET ON THE GROUND FOR ARTISAN DEVELOPMENT

By Peter Matlou

ORBIT COLLEGE MERSETA & ELECTRO DIESEL PARTNERSHIP PRODUCE ARTISANS



Qualified Artisans: Suzan Mofokeng, Ben Mogafe, Anthony Matimbe, Katlego Tebogo Maphakela

“These students worked extremely hard to obtain their qualification. They are definitely an inspiration to many other students” Peter Matlou – BDI Manager –ORBIT TVET College”

2018 will be remembered as a year in which the College mandate to train and produce artisans and help grow the economy was realised through a collaborative effort with merSETA and Industry.

There is widespread agreement that South Africa produces too few artisans to meet the needs of a growing economy.

But a three year training programme finally yielded positive results and feedback for ORBIT College!

A number of students with an NCV Level 4 qualification were recruited from the College database to receive formal workshop training at the College for a period of 6 months. They were then placed at ELECTRO Diesel, an electrical company in Rustenburg, and managed to complete their 18 months internship under the supervision of a qualified artisan.

Having successfully completed their training and internship, the students were offered an opportunity for trade testing at Vuselela TVET College.

All of them were declared competent and were awarded their artisan qualification.

Of the six students, four were immediately employed by DCS Transformers.



Suzan Mofokeng, Kgakgamatso Ntlaelang and Boitumelo Rantlhaku all qualified as Electrical Work Artisans

*“Being an artisan is hard labour but it is fulfilling in that it gives you better knowledge and understanding and offers an opportunity for creative thinking. DCS Transformers has been very good to us. We are enjoying the support and experience of highly qualified mentor, Mr CJ Moolman. My experience thus far has created so many opportunities that I will gladly share with other aspirant artisans in future. I would like to thank ORBIT TVET College for their patience and the opportunity”,*says Suzan Mofokeng, one of the artisans who qualified through the programme.

The College would like to congratulate this group of students and appreciate the support that we received from merSETA and Electro Diesel.

We trust that this achievement will serve as motivation for our future artisan-in-training students

ARTISAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES CURRENTLY RUNNING AT THE COLLEGE

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The College has signed a MoU/SLA with the AECl group of companies and has nine students in training as artisans for Welding Works. The students have now completed their theory and workshop training and have been placed at THARISA Mining at Marikana for eighteen months

A service level agreement is also in place with ISFAP (Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme) to train twenty prospective artisans in Electrical Work and Boilermaking. These students have already completed their theory and workshop training and are currently placed in Germiston at Kira Valve and in Durban (Verulam) at Steelvision and Khula Nathi Company. We trust that they will be able to complete their training in time.

The College is also a beneficiary of the Centre of Specialisation (CoS) Project funded by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and the National Skills Fund (NSF) to train sixty prospective artisans in Electrical Work and Diesel Mechanic. The project will officially commence in 2019.

The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with merSETA will see the training of twenty students in a spray painting artisan qualification. The training, which will commence in 2019, will ensure that the spray painting booth in Mankwe is effectively utilised.

An agreement has been signed with the Department of Health to train sixty employees to obtain an artisan qualification in Carpentry, Electrical Work and Plumbing.

Through the merSETA Artisan Development Programme, the College have sent twelve welding students to NECSA Trade Test Centre for trade testing. The students have already gone through gap training and trade test preparations and are currently waiting for dates to do their trade tests. We wish them well in their attempts to become qualified artisans



ORBIT College welding students are hard at work to obtain a welding artisan qualification at NECSA