Message from the Deputy Principal

Dear Stakeholder

This year we enter a new era in Technical Vocational and Training Education as all fifty colleges migrate from a provincial competency to a national competency resorting under the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET).

This function shift however will not affect our operations as an educational institution and we remain committed to serve and up-skill the community in the broader West Coast region.

In order to stay abreast and relevant to industry needs the college has made some amendments and additions to our course offerings.

With the declaration of 2014 - 2024 as the Decade of the Artisan the college has a conscious effort to aid government’s priority to revive and strengthen artisan training through apprenticeships, learnerships and short skills programmes. In 2015 all five of our campuses will offer N1 - N3 Trimester studies creating a platform for businesses to qualify their labour force and increase productivity.

The Saldanha Bay region has been identified as an Industrial Development Zone and the West Coast College want to equip local citizens with the skills needed to drive and grow local economic development.

Additionally we have partnered with UNISA to facilitate the roll out of B-ED Degree, Foundation Phase in Malmesbury as well as a Higher Certificate in Economic and Management Sciences in Vredenburg.

The implementation of these courses at the West Coast College will not only grow the pool of qualified teachers in the area but will also assist the Department of Higher Education and Training in its mission to strengthen partnerships between TVET Colleges and Universities.

Kind Regards,

Rhazia Hamza

New Appointments

“’The fact that education changes the lives and circumstances of people is why I remain passionate about the sector’, says the new Deputy CEO (Corporate Services) at West Coast College.

Mr Lungisa Mbulawa has extensive knowledge of the Further Education and Training sector, coupled with more than 15 years of experience in education. He started as a lecturer in Business Studies in 1998 and was thereafter the Campus Manager at False Bay College’s Khayelitsha Campus for six years.

“The college plays a integral role in the development and growth of the West Coast region. With the projected growth and economic development in the area, citizens will depend on the college to prepare students to benefit from these opportunities,” he added.

Mr Themba Ndaba, newly appointed Vredendal Campus Manager, has more than nine years’ experience in the Further Education and Training Sector. He was previously employed at College of Cape Town as Programme Manager for Business Studies at the City Campus and Gugulethu Campus.

“I am really inspired by the commitment of the students from the Vredendal and surrounding areas. Although the opportunities are few, they are passionate to learn and use this opportunity to empower themselves.”
Huge Boost for Construction Sector

A two-million-rand partnership between West Coast College and the Construction Education and Training Authority (CETA) will offer opportunities to 50 young people to be trained as artisans to become involved in various public works projects in the West Coast and the Northern Cape region.

Projects such as the Sanral N7 road expansion, the building of the new Vredendal mall, the Industrial Development Zone in Saldanha and various community house building projects have created a demand for local semi-skilled construction workers.

In the last few years West Coast College has made steady strides in the development of artisans, and with the increased demand for qualified and competent labour it is critical for government and the private sector to invest in initiatives like these.

These construction learnerships, which run over a period of a year, will equip young people with the necessary skills to benefit from the local infrastructure developments and to become entrepreneurs in the construction sector.

According to West Coast College project manager Mr Stanley Matthews this partnership is a product of extensive research and negotiations between the college and CETA. “This project will create huge interest for construction in the region and thus we’ve decided to expand the pool of qualified construction workers in the area to meet the demand,” said Mr Matthews.

At the official launch of the project held in Vredendal, Mr Sibusiso Nkabide, Project Manager at CETA encouraged the students to see this an opportunity not only to upskill themselves but also to inspire others in their communities.

“You are one of the lucky ones to be selected for this learnership. We hope that five years from now you will be able to reflect and say, this learnership changed my life”, said Mr Nkabide.

Atlantic Sands makes dream a reality

A young rural girl’s socio-economic circumstances and medical condition did not stand in her way of her love for children and compassion for her community. Instead, she was offered a full bursary in recognition of her academic achievements.

Education and Development student, Susan Koopman, hails from Riverlands, a small community near Malmesbury.

She said: “Where I come from opportunities are very scarce. I am really honoured to receive this bursary as this is the first time that I’m recognized for my academic achievements. The fact that I am a cardio patient made very few people thought that I would ever be able to follow my dream in becoming a teacher or community development worker.

“West Coast College and Atlantic Sands have given me the chance to live my dream”, she beamed.

Given the current financial climate it is becoming increasingly difficult for the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) and other financial institutions to render sustained financial assistance to the ever growing demands of students.

Various government departments and education institutions continuously call on industry to support and contribute to bursary funds in order to make higher education accessible to more young people. Atlantic Sands, answered the call when they sponsored Susan with a full bursary in recognition of her academic performances.

“I am certainly going to use this bursary to the best of my ability and make sure that Atlantic Sands does not regret allocating the bursary to me,” she said determinedly.

West Coast College invites any other businesses or stakeholders wanting to sponsor a student or make a donation to contact us on 022 482 2425 or email the Public Relations Officer, hrbertram@westcoastcollege.co.za.
Prospective students are encouraged to enrol for the various artisan offerings at the college, which include Fitting and Turning, Electrical Infrastructure Construction, Welding, Automotive studies and other related Apprenticeships, Learnerships and Trade Tests.

**IDZ offers opportunities out of poverty**

The Industrial Development Zone (IDZ) in Saldanha Bay offers the perfect opportunity for local citizens to propel themselves out of poverty and assist the country in alleviating the unemployment rate.

This was the message from West Coast College Deputy Principal Ms Rhazia Hamza at a skills development summit attended by, among others the Deputy Ministers of Higher Education and Training, Mduhzei Manana and of Trade and Industry Mzwandile Masina.

Ms Hamza said benefits and opportunities directly linked to the developments in the Saldanha Bay area are not limited to the artisan and engineering sectors. “With the anticipated economic growth and industrial development, business will certainly need office administrators, business managers and human resource practitioners.

The college, with a footprint across the entire West Coast region, will be one of the major catalysts in balancing out supply and demand in these fields of study,” she said.

The summit was facilitated by the Energy and Water Services Sector Education and Training Authority (EWSETA) and attended by delegates from various government departments and private sector.

Ms Hamza emphasized statistics indicating shortage in locally skilled artisans. “We need to ensure that we equip our local labor market with the necessary skills and competencies in order to benefit.”

The college's Welding Centre in Vredenburg is rated as one of the best welding training centres nationally and continuously produces welders of the highest caliber.

**College provides access to the world of work**

Access to the world of work is an important and integral part of the government’s attempts to address the challenges of skills provisioning and unemployment. As a vocational institute West Coast College has a responsibility to ensure our students are exposed to their chosen industry and provide them with practical skills.

In this respect the college works closely with various Sector Education and Training Authorities (Setas), the National Skills Fund (NSF) and other agencies to provide our graduates with work experiential learning opportunities.

Upon successful graduation college officials will do everything possible to ensure all students are placed in either an apprenticeship, learnership or internship.

Not only does West Coast College offer support services to its student during studies, but offer support to exiting students to make them ready for the world of work; pursue further studies in higher education; or to start up and build their own businesses.

**Advantages for Business**

Getting involved in college workplace integrated learning programmes can be a strategic way for companies to recruit potential staff. There is no financial obligation on companies whilst students are hosted. Upon successful completion of their studies, the students can go back to the companies and work for 12-18 months as an Intern or engineering apprentice for the company.

Effectively used, these Internship opportunities can lead to an increase in the bottom line. Companies who take on Apprenticeships also qualify for tax rebates and increase their BBBEE scorecard ratings.

In this respect the college works with a range of host employers on its database and wishes to thank and acknowledge the stakeholders and companies, which continue to open their office spaces, workshops, kitchens and their hearts for our students.

For more information call Mr Gert Witbooi gwitbooi@westcoastcollege or Mr Lumkile Rularula lulurala@westcoastcollege, tel 022 482 1143.

www.westcoastcollege.co.za
A visually impaired student enrolling at West Coast College was initially apprehensive, but is now excelling academically and as motivational speaker. Chenika Davids from Atlantis said one of her main concerns was that she was going to keep up the rest of the class but after receiving all her gadgets, “studying is a breeze...”

The college invested in a special laptop as well as a device that translates all Chenika’s writing in audio sounds for her to listen to when she revises her work.

“I still recall how nervous I was when I had to attend college for my first day as a student. How will my fellow students react? Will I cope?”

These were the questions flashing through her mind when she enrolled for her National Certificate (Vocational) in Education and Development at West Coast College’s Atlantis Campus.

Chenika was born with a visual disability, Macular Degeneration, with no central vision and light perception. After completing her grade 10 at Saxon Sea Secondary in 2004 she was determined to continue her studies.

“I knew that my visual impairment will have a huge impact on my career choice but I wasn't going to be distracted in reaching my goals in life,” she said.

After attending the Cape Town Society of the Blind and League of Friends of the Blind she gained even more confidence in becoming a role model for people living with a disability.

West Coast College has various interventions and support structures assisting students with special study needs. The college assisted Chenika with the resources needed to study and excel academically.

Chenika is currently doing public speaking to inspire youth in her community to chase their dreams. “If I can, so can you” is her favourite phrase when addressing young and old during her motivational sessions.

Construction to the new central office in Malmesbury is well on its way.

The last phase of construction includes the finishing of the administration building and construction of Loedolf Street to ensure safety of students and make access to campus easier.

Loedolf House, one of the most historic buildings in Malmesbury, was purchased by the college and will be utilised by the Hospitality faculty.

Construction of Loedolf Street, the road in which the new Malmesbury Campus is located, is underway.