

CHARTING NEW PATHWAYS IN A DIGITAL ERA

As 2025 draws to a close, this edition of The Odyssey invites you on a journey through a year marked by innovation, collaboration, and transformation. ORBIT TVET College continues to stand at the forefront of change where technology meets opportunity, and where learning evolves to meet the future. From high-level engagements with national and international partners to the celebration of student milestones and achievements, this edition captures a College in motion—expanding its horizons while remaining rooted in its purpose of empowering the youth of South Africa. The growing emphasis on artificial intelligence, digital innovation, and entrepreneurship signals not just adaptation, but leadership in shaping the skills of tomorrow.

This spirit of transformation also extends to the College’s academic core, as ORBIT upscales the offering of QCTO Occupational Qualifications in response to the phasing out of legacy programmes. This shift represents a new era in vocational education, one that strengthens lecturer capacity, modernises infrastructure, and ensures that TVET colleges remain key drivers of employability and entrepreneurship in South Africa.

As you turn these pages, may you be inspired by the stories of resilience, creativity, and progress that define our collective journey. ORBIT’s odyssey continues charting new pathways in a digital era, and lighting the way for generations to come. The editorial team wishes you all a blessed Christmas season filled with joy, peace and goodwill.

Odyssey Editorial Team

HP GAMING GARAGE PROJECT EMPOWER SOUTH AFRICAN YOUTH WITH FUTURE-READY SKILLS

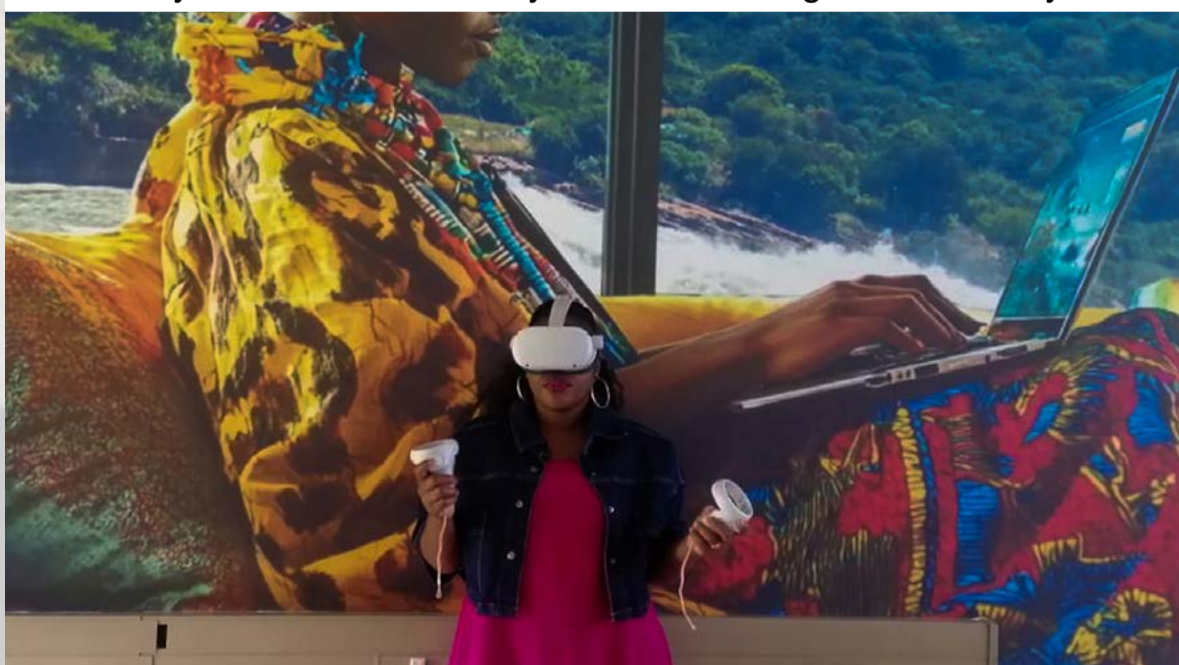
By Reuben Marakalala – Senior Marketing and Communication Officer

In a ground-breaking move to equip South African youth with future-ready skills, HP, iTMaster, and Intel have partnered with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) – Open Learning to launch the HP Gaming Garage TVET Project. This national initiative aims to advance youth employability, digital innovation, and entrepreneurship.

At the heart of the programme is the establishment of two HP Gaming Garage Training Centres — one at ORBIT TVET College Brits Campus and another at South Cape TVET College. The Brits Campus will serve as the flagship hub for the North West Province, offering cutting-edge training in Business & IT, Game Coding, Design, and eSports. Fully equipped with HP technology, the centre will empower students to explore emerging digital industries while fostering innovation and teamwork.

This collaborative effort combines governance, technology, and infrastructure for sustainable youth empowerment. While DHET, through ORBIT TVET College, will ensure quality training delivery; Intel will provide laptops, AI content, and hackathon support; with HP contributing global training platforms and eSports certifications and iTMaster enhancing the physical learning environment. This collaboration is a shining example of how public-private partnerships can transform education and unlock the potential of young South Africans — equipping them with the skills, confidence, and creativity to shape the digital future.

Over the next 24 months (May 2025 – April 2027), the project will roll out in two phases — setup and full-scale programme delivery — preparing students for digital-age careers. Through this initiative, ORBIT TVET College Brits Campus cements its leadership in digital innovation and future skills development, helping shape a new generation of creative, tech-savvy South Africans ready to thrive in the global economy.



A beautifully designed mural acts as an exquisite backdrop to the modern HP Gaming Garage hub that is currently being developed at Brits Campus

Merry Christmas

THE BIGGER PICTURE

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL ACADEMIC AND STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES DESK: NAVIGATING THE TRANSITION TO OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAMMES

By Tebogo Tihopile - Deputy Principal: Academic and Student Support Services



Ms T Tihopile
Deputy Principal: Academic & Student Support Services

In my last message to you, I reflected with gratitude on the strides we made as a college community from strengthening peer support programmes to creating inclusive spaces where our students feel heard, valued, and equipped to thrive. That reflection was not only about looking back; it was also about preparing for what lies ahead. Today, I am pleased to share with you the next chapter of our collective journey: the transition to Occupational Programmes, which will take effect in 2026.

This is not only an ORBIT TVET College story, but a national milestone for all TVET Colleges and Skills Development providers across South Africa. Guided by the Skills Development Act (Act 97 of 1998) and overseen by the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO), the entire sector is moving from legacy qualifications to programmes that are industry-relevant, competency-based, and future-focused. At ORBIT, we have already embraced this direction, with our lecturers attending QCTO-led capacity-building workshops to ensure readiness for delivery and assessment.

New programme offerings for 2026

We are proud to be introducing a range of Occupational Programmes across our campuses:

Brits Campus: Electrician (Trade), Artificial Intelligence Software Developer, Carpenter and Joiner (Trade)

Mankwe Campus: Diesel Mechanic (Trade), Chef (Trade), Clearing and Forwarding Agent, Freight Handler, Boilermaker (Trade)

Rustenburg Campus: Computer Technician, Hairdresser (Trade)

These programmes have been carefully selected to balance traditional trades with emerging fields. From Artificial Intelligence to Freight Handling, each qualification is designed to prepare our students for both today's labour market and the future workplace.

Guided by the PQM Committee

To support this transition, our College has established the Programme Qualification Mix (PQM) Development and Implementation Committee. Its role is to ensure that our curriculum remains relevant, quality-assured, and industry-aligned. The Committee's mandate covers labour market research, accreditation processes, lecturer development, and partnerships with industry to create strong pathways for work-integrated learning. This means that our students will not only learn in classrooms and workshops, but also gain valuable workplace exposure. In addition to its exciting new programmes, ORBIT TVET College also champions innovative initiatives that support the holistic development of its students.

Expanding learning pathways

We recognise that learning must be flexible and accessible. That is why we are actively exploring online learning, distance learning, blended models, and short skills courses. These options will make it easier for students to study while working, upskilling, or reskilling, and they will expand our reach to communities across the province.

Competing globally, inspiring locally

As part of our vision, ORBIT TVET College is preparing for global participation in the WorldSkills competitions, with a special focus on Artificial Intelligence and Robotics. Competing on this stage gives our students an opportunity to measure themselves against the best in the world, while also driving innovation within our own classrooms and workshops.

Student support and talent development

Our commitment to students goes beyond academics. Through our Student Support Services, we provide academic tutoring, wellness programmes, and career guidance ensuring that no student is left behind. I am especially proud of our College soccer team, which recently qualified for the Betway PSL. Their achievement is not only a reflection of sporting excellence, but also of ORBIT's commitment to nurturing talent in every form. It demonstrates the power of support, discipline, and determination values we strive to instil in all our learners.

Shaping the economy of the province

This commitment to innovation, flexible learning, and holistic student development ensures that ORBIT TVET College graduates are not only technically competent but also adaptable, creative, and prepared to seize opportunities in a rapidly evolving world. Whether they are applying their skills in global competitions, excelling in work-integrated learning placements, or pursuing entrepreneurial ventures, our students are equipped to make a meaningful impact. By fostering talent, supporting personal growth, and encouraging practical application, ORBIT TVET College continues to contribute to both local communities and the broader economy of the North West Province.

Our graduates leave not only ready for employment, but also empowered to drive innovation, create opportunities, and shape the future. Whether it is an electrician powering homes, a chef transforming hospitality, or an AI software developer building tomorrow's technologies, our graduates will be at the heart of economic growth and social development. Together, we are building skills for work, for life, and for the future.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

By Dr Joe Viljoen, Deputy Principal: Innovation and Development



Dr J Viljoen
Deputy Principal: Innovation and Development

Greetings to the ORBIT TVET College community,

ORBIT TVET College charts a bold path for innovation and student success

ORBIT TVET College continues to position itself as a leader in vocational and occupational education, with bold steps in digital innovation, industry partnerships, student success, and international collaboration. The College community can look forward to even more opportunities as we prepare for the next phase of growth in 2026.

Expanding opportunities through partnerships

Over the past year, the College has strengthened ties with local and international partners to enhance its Programme Qualification Mix (PQM) and expand opportunities for both staff and students.

A major success story has been the placement of more than 600 students in Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) opportunities, led by Senior Placement Officer Ms N Rakhudu at Central Office. These placements give students the practical exposure they need to bridge the gap between classroom theory and real-world practice. In addition, Ms Rakhudu, supported by the Corporate Communications and Marketing Unit under the leadership of Ms M Viljoen, hosted a well-attended WIL Employer Function with over 60 prospective host employers—creating fresh pathways for collaboration and future placements.

Strengthening global connections

ORBIT TVET College is a global institution that has also reached new heights through historic agreements with five Chinese Colleges and Industries. These collaborations will bring cutting-edge expertise to the College in areas such as:

- Digital education and academic exchanges
- Development of international occupational and curriculum standards
- Creation of digital training platforms and resource libraries
- Professional co-construction and staff capacity building
- Opportunities for international student skills training and exchanges
- Plans to explore the establishment of a joint study branch with Chinese partners

The College also continues to benefit from its partnership with GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit). Through GIZ, students in ICT-related programmes receive enhanced career guidance, while the green energy project at Brits Campus and staff development initiatives further strengthen capacity.

Supporting Student Success

Student success remains at the centre of ORBIT's mission. Under the leadership of the Senior Bursary Officer, Mr M Molefe at Central Office, by the end of September 2025:

- 5 945 students had been awarded NSFAS bursaries, valued at R174 million, and
- 79 students received additional bursaries from SETA and business partners.

With the assistance of campus staff, Ms Modisane, Senior Registration Officer, completed enrolments for the 2025 NCV, Occupational, Semester, and Trimester programmes across all intakes, achieving an impressive 100% of the overall target for planned enrolments in 2025.

The MIS & Student Enrolment Unit (Ms B Barfoot and Ms W Modisane) also piloted an Auto Promotion sub-system during Trimester 3 to make applications for senior students more efficient and user-friendly.

Planning for the Future

ORBIT TVET College's 2025–2029 Strategic Plan has been submitted to the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). This plan, together with the Operational Plan, Annual Performance Plan, and Funding Grid, will guide the College's growth and ensure continued excellence. Looking ahead, preparations for 2026 enrolments are already underway. The MIS & Enrolment Unit is aligning its Business Management System (BMS) to accommodate the phasing out of Report 191 programmes and the introduction of new Occupational Programmes. Enhancements now include automatic SMS notifications to applicants, keeping students informed in real time.

Commitment to excellence

ORBIT's drive for continuous improvement is visible in every aspect of its operations. BMS key users are streamlining processes and enhancing service delivery, while the Corporate Communications and Marketing Unit has embarked on a rebranding campaign. This rebranding is more than a new look—it signals the College's commitment to staying relevant, professional, and competitive in a fast-changing education landscape. It will also strengthen ORBIT's visibility, attract new partners, and inspire confidence among prospective students.

Looking ahead

As 2025 draws to a close, ORBIT TVET College is well-positioned for another year of progress. With innovation, collaboration, and student success as its guiding principles, the College is building a future where students and staff alike can thrive. Together, we will make ORBIT TVET College a beacon of excellence in vocational and occupational education.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

THE BIGGER PICTURE

BUILDING FINANCIAL RESILIENCE: A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL FINANCE

By Moses Sebaetse – Deputy Principal Finance



Mr M Sebaetse
Deputy Principal: Finance

Dear Odyssey Community,

As we approach the end of another term, I am writing to provide an update on our college's financial health and strategic direction. It's a privilege to serve as Deputy Principal Finance at ORBIT TVET College—overseeing the stewardship of resources that fuel our shared mission of fostering innovative, inclusive, and transformative education.

With the calendar flipping to 2026, this feels like the perfect moment to reflect on our financial journey through 2025 and cast an optimistic gaze toward the opportunities ahead. As Deputy Principal Finance, my priority is to ensure the long-term sustainability of our institution, while aligning our financial resources with our core mission of providing high-quality education and skills training. A significant part of this is addressing the 2024 qualified audit opinion, which highlighted the need for greater rigor and clarity in our financial governance.

I also wish to emphasise two crucial areas requiring our collective focus: investing in new technology and renewing our commitment to procurement processes. These priorities extend beyond the Finance unit—they demand engagement from all units across the college. Your dedication is key to our success, and your cooperation will be invaluable.

Understanding our Qualified Audit Opinion

In our 2024 financial review, the Auditor-General's report delivered a qualified audit opinion. It is important to understand what this means for ORBIT TVET College: A qualified opinion indicates that, for the most part, our financial statements present a true and fair view of our position. However, the auditor identified specific issues—that prevented a "clean" or unqualified report. My team has already developed a robust action plan to address these findings and ensure full rectification. We are committed to achieving an unqualified audit opinion in the 2025 financial year.

Investing in technology for efficiency and effectiveness

To tackle our audit findings and drive greater operational efficiency, we must prioritize institutional investment in technology as a collective endeavour.

This investment will:

- Increase financial visibility and control, providing real-time data on spending and performance to track and manage our budget more effectively
- Streamline administrative tasks, automating repetitive processes like purchase orders and invoice handling to reduce human error and free up valuable staff time
- Enhance the student learning experience, offering access to modern, engaging, and flexible resources that align with our TVET focus on practical skills

Clarifying and complying with procurement processes

We must all understand and adhere to our procurement policies. These processes ensure that we acquire goods and services in a fair, competitive manner that delivers the best value for money—essential for a public institution like ours. Compliance with procurement processes and Treasury Regulations are important as this:

- **Ensures regulatory adherence:** As a public entity, we are bound by Treasury Regulations. Following procedures is non-negotiable to avoid contravention to Treasury Regulations and reputational risks.
- **Promotes transparency and accountability:** Proper documentation creates a clear audit trail, building trust with stakeholders and directly addressing past audit concerns.
- **Enables cost control:** By preventing unauthorised spending, we secure optimal value, supporting sustainable resource allocation across all units.

Our way forward

The Finance and Procurement departments will lead initiatives to refine these processes, including targeted training sessions for staff college-wide. There will be a significant effort to improve our audit outcome for the 2025 Annual Financial Statements, with quarterly progress reviews to maintain momentum.

A personal note of thanks

I am immensely proud of the Finance and Supply Chain Unit. Your commitment and adaptability have kept us steady through challenging times, and we acknowledge that there is always room for improvement. The financial health of ORBIT TVET College is a shared responsibility, and I thank you for your ongoing support. Let us continue working together to build a strong and prosperous future for our college.

PARLIAMENTARY PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE COMMENDS ORBIT TVET COLLEGE DURING OVERSIGHT VISIT

By Mariette Viljoen – ASD Marketing and Communication



DHET Portfolio Committee Chairperson, Mr Tebogo Letsie (middle) and portfolio committee members (right) join the 2024 SRC President, Ms Pretty Mohajane (left) and 2024 SRC Secretary Ms Mmapaseka Khoza for the campus walkabout

On Thursday, 30 January 2025, the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training concluded the North West leg of its oversight visits to academic institutions with a visit to ORBIT TVET College Rustenburg Campus. The purpose of the visit was to assess the College's readiness for the 2025 academic year.

During the visit, the Committee had the opportunity to tour the campus, inspect facilities, and witness first-hand the College's commitment to skills development. Class visits and direct engagements with staff and students provided valuable insights into daily campus activities. The Committee commended the College for its high standards and the excellent work being done.

However, concerns were raised regarding the number of staff members in acting positions, an issue highlighted by both labour unions and the Student Representative Council (SRC). Addressing this, the Chairperson of the Committee, Mr Tebogo Letsie, stated: "We have committed ourselves in this term to engaging with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) to discuss governance issues, including the Department's inability to fill vacant posts."

A meeting held on the same day brought together various stakeholders, including the Portfolio Committee, DHET officials, ORBIT College management, the SRC, and representatives from different labour unions. Discussions highlighted the College's commendable partnership with Intel Corporation and the DHET to promote artificial intelligence education. This collaboration aims to equip students with the skills necessary to develop innovative AI solutions.

The visit served as a source of motivation for College staff, reinforcing the importance of addressing challenges while building on the institution's achievements within the TVET sector.



Portfolio Committee members accompany the College Principal, Mr Dika Mokoena to exhibition stalls, showcasing College students' skills

GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT ON ORBIT COLLEGE AS G20 DELEGATES VISIT MANKWE CAMPUS

By Mariette Viljoen – ASD Marketing and Communication



Former Minister of Higher Education & Training, Dr Nobuhle Nkabane arrive for the visit at Mankwe Campus as part of the EDWG's G20 seminar held in May

ORBIT TVET College Mankwe Campus proudly welcomed international delegates on Tuesday, 27 May 2025, when former Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Nobuhle Nkabane, hosted a special visit for members of the G20 Education Working Group. The campus visit formed part of the G20 Seminar on Mutual Recognition of Qualifications, held later that day at the Sun City International Convention Centre. The Minister led G20 member country delegations, international organisations, and education leaders on a dynamic tour of the Mankwe Campus, giving them first-hand insight into South Africa's TVET Sector. Delegates visited the AI Incubator, engineering workshops, and the Centre for Entrepreneurship Rapid Incubator before concluding the tour at the Conference Centre, where a scrumptious breakfast was served.

To enrich the experience, a large number of college strategic partners were invited to exhibit on the day, creating a lively and interactive atmosphere. Delegates engaged with diverse stalls that showcased the breadth of partnerships supporting skills development and innovation at the College and in the North West Province.

The seminar itself, which followed at Sun City, was a milestone in South Africa's presidency of the G20. It focused on strengthening the recognition of qualifications across borders to make it easier for students, educators, and professionals to move, work, and learn globally. Themes included labour migration, skills portability, and the growing role of micro-credentials in lifelong learning.

For South Africa, these discussions came at an important time, following the country's accession to the Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education—the first UN treaty of its kind, designed to expand opportunities for academic mobility worldwide. With global policymakers, academics, and organisations such as UNESCO, OECD, and the ILO in attendance, the seminar showcased South Africa's commitment to building inclusive and competitive education systems.

For ORBIT TVET College, being included in this international programme was a proud moment. By opening its doors to global delegates, the College demonstrated the strength and potential of TVET institutions in preparing young people for a borderless future. Mankwe Campus stood out as a hub of skills, innovation, and collaboration, reinforcing ORBIT's role as a leading institution in shaping the skills agenda locally and globally.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

ORBIT TVET COLLEGE STRENGTHENS GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS WITH CHINESE INSTITUTIONS

By Dr Joe Viljoen – Deputy Principal Innovation and Development



During the visit, ORBIT College Principal, Mr Dika Mokoena signed several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Colleges as part of establishing educational cooperation and student exchange programme partnerships. Pictured in the photo is Mr Mokoena signing an MoU with the Shandong Vocational College of Information Technology.

From 10 to 21 June 2025, a Senior Management delegation from ORBIT TVET College embarked on a landmark visit to Hunan Industry Polytechnic, Guangdong Machinery Technician College, Shandong Vocational College of Information Technology, and Nanjing Zhongxing Xinyada Information Technology in China. The purpose of the visit was to establish educational cooperation and student exchange programme partnerships, further positioning ORBIT TVET College as a leader in vocational and occupational training.

Building Bridges Through International Collaboration

The College firmly believes that international collaborations enrich the learning and teaching experiences of both students and staff. These partnerships provide students and staff with opportunities to engage with diverse cultures, advanced teaching methodologies, and cutting-edge technical expertise. During the visit, ORBIT delegates toured world-class facilities, held discussions with faculty and administrators, and explored avenues for collaboration in vocational education and training.

“This partnership represents more than an academic agreement—it is an opportunity for our students and staff to access global standards, technologies, and industries that will define the future of work,” said Dr Joe Viljoen, Deputy Principal: Innovation and Development.

Strategic Areas of Collaboration

The partnerships are designed to create long-term impact, focusing on:

- International occupational standards co-creation
- Development of professional and curriculum standards
- Digital training platforms and resource development
- Joint construction and sharing of teaching resources
- Establishment of training and employment bases in China and South Africa
- Building an international education cooperation platform
- Possibility of a study branch/point of ORBIT TVET College in collaboration with Chinese partners

Focus on Future Skills and 4IR Technologies

The collaboration will prioritise Mechanical, EV Automotive, AI, electronics, and telecommunications industries, aligning with global workforce needs. Students will benefit from updated modules in mechanical, electronics, AI, communications, and embedded systems—equipping them for careers in green energy, telecommunications, hardware design, and manufacturing.

ORBIT TVET College also plans to enhance facilities with smart labs, ensuring that practical training keeps pace with global technological advances.

Student and Academic Benefits

Students will gain real-world experience through internships, project-based learning, and mentorship programmes, working directly with Chinese and South African companies. They will learn to use the latest AI tools, IoT devices, and digital applications—skills that are in demand globally. Academic programme development is also a key outcome. Exchange programmes will allow ORBIT lecturers to train at Chinese Polytechnics in emerging technologies. This will empower them to bring back specialised expertise, ensuring that teaching at ORBIT is informed by global best practice.

Serving Students and Industry

The partnerships also include cooperation with Chinese-funded enterprises in South Africa, such as XinYaDa and BNW, which are leading projects in next-generation information technology. By aligning with these companies, ORBIT students will gain access to internships and employment opportunities that connect classroom learning with industry requirements.

These collaborations ensure that graduates of ORBIT TVET College are not only academically prepared but also positioned for high-quality employment both locally and globally.

A Global Future for ORBIT TVET College

The visit to China signals a new chapter in ORBIT TVET College’s journey to expand its global footprint. These partnerships will bridge the gap between education and industry, ensure the development of world-class skills, and enhance the College’s reputation as a hub for innovation and international cooperation. As the world moves deeper into the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, ORBIT TVET College is ensuring that its students and staff are not left behind—but rather are prepared to lead.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

NORTH WEST HRDC RELAUNCHED TO BOOST SKILLS AND COMBAT UNEMPLOYMENT

By Mariette Viljoen – ASD Marketing and Communication



As part of the North West Provincial Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) official relaunch held on Saturday, 02 August 2025, at Mankwe delegates had an opportunity to visit campus facilities during a walkabout.

The North West Provincial Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) was officially relaunched on Saturday, 02 August 2025, at the Mankwe Campus of ORBIT TVET College in Moses Kotane Local Municipality. The relaunch, led by North West Premier Kagiso Lazarus Mkgosi, marks a renewed commitment to tackling unemployment and driving socio-economic growth by aligning skills development with labour market demands.

The HRDC is part of the reconceptualised national HRDC strategy and Master Skills Plan, which aims to strengthen South Africa’s education and training systems to support economic growth and job creation. In his keynote address, Premier Mkgosi emphasised that the Council would serve as both a strategic and catalytic platform to accelerate human capital development in the province. “Of critical importance is to commit to skills development as part of the province’s continued endeavours to empower young people, grow the economy, and create jobs,” said Premier Mkgosi. He further highlighted that, while the province is rich in natural resources, the low skills base has hindered its ability to unlock its full economic potential.

The Provincial Growth and Development Strategy has identified key economic drivers for the province, including Mining, Agriculture and Agro-Processing, Tourism, Renewable Energy and the Green Economy, and Infrastructure Development. Premier Mkgosi stressed that these sectors cannot thrive without the right skills base. The HRDC will therefore serve as the engine for skills planning, coordination, and implementation to support these strategic sectors.

The revitalised HRDC is a multi-sectoral advisory and coordination platform that brings together government departments, municipalities, higher education and training institutions, Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs), organised labour, business, civil society, and community stakeholders. Its mandate includes:

- Strengthening artisan development and technical training.
- Expanding workplace-based learning, internships, and learnerships.
- Empowering youth, women, and persons with disabilities through targeted programmes.
- Supporting digital skills and innovation.

Among the Council members are Members of the Executive Council, District Executive Mayors, the Economic and Investment Advisory Committee under Prof John Lamola and Prof Raymond Parsons, representatives of institutions of higher learning including Prof Bismark Tyobeka and Dr Pradheep Balkrishen, as well as representatives of organised labour, business, and civil society, including Mr Kabelo Kgoro, Mr Benedict Modise, and Ms Dieketseng Diale.

Deputy Chairperson of the HRDC, Dr Thembi Xaba, emphasised the importance of alignment with national priorities and urged stakeholders to use the HRDC as a platform for joint planning and coordination.

Hosting the relaunch at Mankwe Campus added significant value by placing ORBIT TVET College at the centre of the provincial skills development agenda. The venue not only highlighted the critical role that TVET Colleges play in addressing unemployment but also allowed the College to showcase its facilities and capabilities. Delegates were taken on a guided campus tour, before concluding at the Conference Centre where networking continued while delegates enjoyed a scrumptious lunch prepared by the Hospitality students of the College. This practical demonstration of the College’s training environment reinforced the importance of aligning education with workplace readiness and innovation.

The relaunch is particularly significant given the province’s unemployment rate of nearly 50%, one of the highest in the country. By focusing on practical, coordinated skills development, the HRDC aims to transform this challenge into an opportunity for inclusive economic growth.

Premier Mkgosi called on all Council members to lead with integrity, transparency, and urgency, ensuring that skills development budgets are effectively targeted and spent. The relaunch of the North West HRDC stands as a strong signal of the province’s determination to place skills at the heart of development, positioning education and training as powerful tools to combat unemployment and poverty.



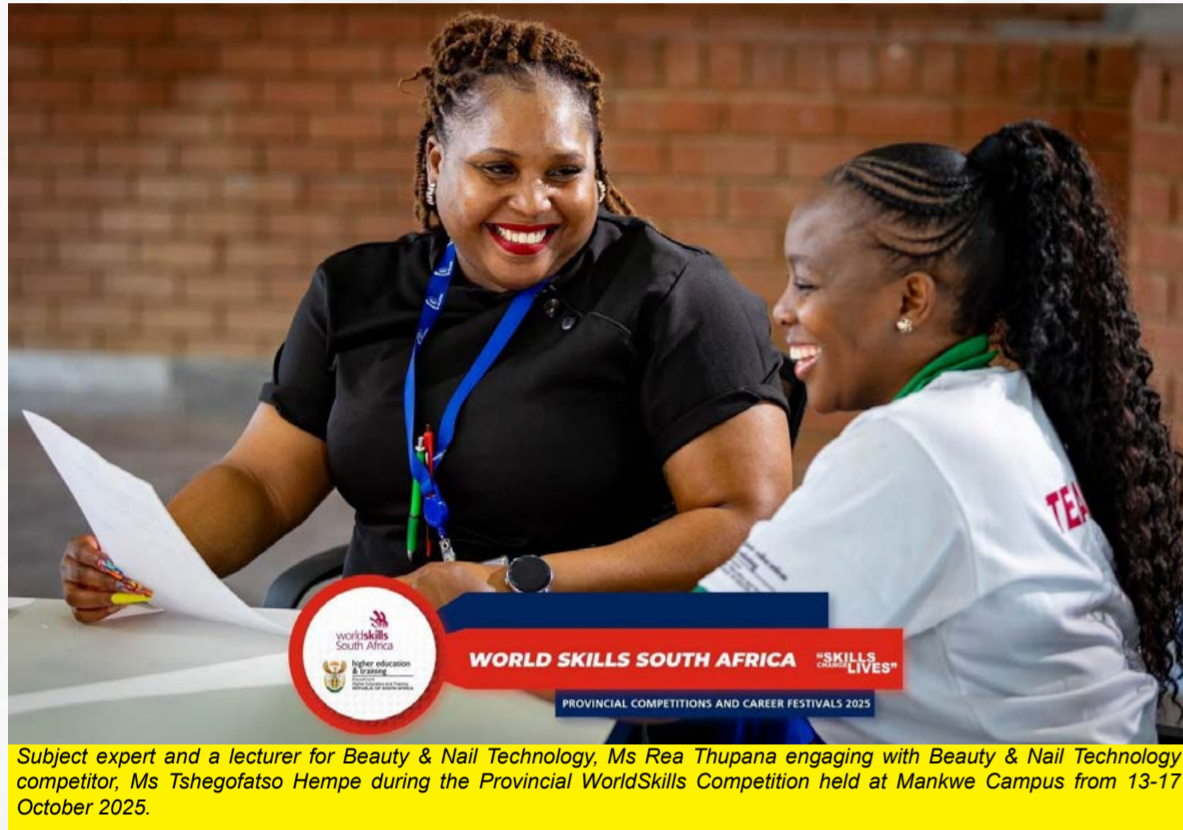
The exhibition provided these small businesses incubated by the Centre for Entrepreneurship rapid incubator with an important platform to showcase their products to government leaders, stakeholders, and the broader community, further highlighting the role of entrepreneurship in local economic growth.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

ACADEMIC MATTERS

ORBIT COLLEGE HOSTS THE 2025 NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL ROUND OF THE WORLDSKILLS COMPETITION

By Welheminah Molapi – Mankwe Campus Manager



Subject expert and a lecturer for Beauty & Nail Technology, Ms Rea Thupana engaging with Beauty & Nail Technology competitor, Ms Tshgefato Hemepe during the Provincial WorldSkills Competition held at Mankwe Campus from 13-17 October 2025.

The 2025 North West Provincial Skills Competition, held at ORBIT TVET College Mankwe Campus from 13 to 17 October 2025, brought together the province's most talented young artisans to compete for a chance to represent the North West Province at the national stage of the WorldSkills South Africa (WSZA) Competition.

The Opening Ceremony on Monday, 13 October set the tone for a week filled with innovation, excellence, and spirited competition, while the Closing Ceremony on Friday, 17 October concluded with much celebration as certificates and awards were presented to deserving participants. The event was attended by DHET officials, stakeholders, lecturers, students, management, and support staff, who gathered to honour the achievements of these promising young competitors.

Organised by the WSZA North West Sub-Committee, the provincial round followed the local heats held earlier in April and May, during which each of the three provincial public TVET colleges—ORBIT, Vuselela, and Taletso TVET Colleges—held internal competitions to identify their best candidates. The winners of those local rounds advanced to the provincial competition at Mankwe Campus.

This year's provincial competition featured 26 competitors across 13 skill areas, including:

- Electrical Installations (Vuselela)
- Mechanical CAD (ORBIT and Taletso)
- Bakery (ORBIT)
- Cooking (Vuselela)
- Beauty Therapy (ORBIT)
- Restaurant Services (ORBIT)
- IT Network Systems and Administration (Vuselela)
- IT Software Solutions (ORBIT)
- Health and Social Care (NWU)
- Carpentry (ORBIT and Vuselela)
- Haircare (ORBIT)
- Renewable Energy (Vuselela)
- Robotics (ORBIT and Vuselela)

Students demonstrated their skills under the guidance of College staff members, who served as skills experts, supported by national experts and the DHET National WSZA Office. The national office also provided crucial support through consumables and catering throughout the five days of competition.

The WorldSkills competition serves as a powerful platform to promote excellence in vocational and technical education and to prepare South African youth to compete at international standards. Winners from the North West Provincial Competition will go on to participate in the National WSZA Competition, to be held in March 2026 in Cape Town.

From there, the national champions—the crème de la crème of South Africa's young artisans—will represent the country at the WorldSkills International Competition in Shanghai, China in September 2026, where they will compete against the best from around the world.

The 2025 Provincial Competition was not only a showcase of skill and talent but also a celebration of the dedication, innovation, and future potential of South Africa's youth. ORBIT TVET College is proud to have hosted such a remarkable event and to continue playing a key role in nurturing world-class skills for a globally competitive workforce.



Ms KC Jere, Civil Engineering student from Brits Campus participated in the Carpentry category of the Provincial WorldSkills Competition.

DRIVING ACADEMIC TRANSFORMATION AT ORBIT TVET COLLEGE

By Phineas Nkau – ASD Curriculum Implementation

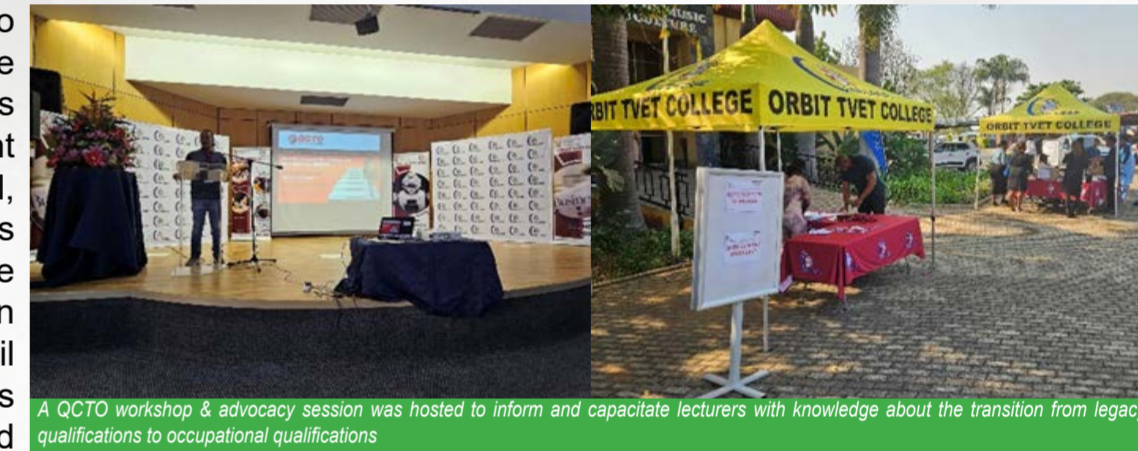


Mr P Nkau
ASD Curriculum Implementation

The 2025 academic year has been the year of change. To sum it up, a nucleus of transformation. The ministerial directive to have all pre-2009 qualifications phased out, specifically R191/NATED programmes, is in full implementation. The college must now upscale the offering of QCTO Occupational qualifications as legacy, traditional qualifications are reviewed and discontinued. The academic unit of the college is therefore leading conversations related to replacement programmes, new programmes to offer, lecturer capacitation, and provision of physical infrastructure, amongst other key areas. With this major move within the TVET sector, the main objective of the DHET remains to ensure that TVET colleges are vehicles for the skilling of the South African nation, for meaningful employment and entrepreneurship.

QCTO advocacy workshop

The College hosted a QCTO Advocacy Session on 29 August 2025 for all lecturers as part of our ongoing effort to align with the transition from legacy qualifications to Occupational Qualifications. The invitation to this workshop was extended to the College Student Representative Council as well, to ensure that student leaders also have an understanding of the direction of TVET colleges as the transition ensues. The session aimed to deepen lecturers' understanding of the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) framework, highlighting its role in ensuring programmes that remain industry-relevant and competency-based. Lecturers gained valuable insights into how this shift supports skills development, workplace readiness, and the national agenda for employability. The engagement marked an important step towards preparing the college for a smooth and informed transition in occupational qualification curriculum delivery and assessment practices.



A QCTO workshop & advocacy session was hosted to inform and capacitate lecturers with knowledge about the transition from legacy qualifications to occupational qualifications

The 2025 centralised maths revision workshops

The Academic Unit has committed to implementing Structured Revision Programmes (SRPs) before every final examination cycle to strengthen student preparedness and improve academic performance. These SRPs offer focused and systematic revision opportunities, enabling lecturers and students to reinforce key subject content. To support Mathematics Level 3 and 4 pass rates, the Unit continued implementing the Centralised Maths Revision Workshops intervention, hosted once again at the Rustenburg Campus from 22 – 29 October 2025. Over these few days, all Maths L3 and L4 students from across the college's campuses participated in intensive, collaborative revision sessions facilitated by the college's mathematics lecturers. The workshops emphasised critical topics, exam-oriented problem-solving techniques, and time management through guided practice and mock exams. This interactive, supportive environment not only enhanced conceptual understanding but also fostered confidence and peer learning—ensuring students were thoroughly prepared to excel in their final examinations. In 2024, the Mathematics L3-L4 pass rate improved by over 9%, as a result of this intervention. The objective for 2025 pass rates is double digits' percentage improvements. All the best to all Mathematics students with their final examinations.



The 2025 centralised maths revision workshop

Umalusi quality assurance directive

In its continued commitment to uphold the quality and integrity of teaching and assessment across the TVET sector, Umalusi has introduced strengthened quality assurance measures for Practical Assessment Tasks (PATs) and Integrated Summative Assessment Tasks (ISATs). Colleges are now required to submit formal assessment timetables as part of the moderation process, ensuring that all practical assessments are conducted within the approved national timeframes and under standardised conditions. In addition, video recordings of PAT and ISAT sessions must be submitted to Umalusi for verification purposes. This initiative is designed to promote transparency, authenticity, and consistency in the conduct of assessments, while also safeguarding the credibility of student results. By implementing these measures, Umalusi aims to reinforce a culture of accountability and continuous improvement in assessment practices, ensuring that every qualification awarded truly reflects a learner's competence and readiness for the workplace.

Internalisation of NC(V) I3-I4 qualifications

A Government Gazette (No. 6435) has been issued, detailing another notable sectoral change for TVETs. A directive has been issued by the Ministry of Higher Education and Training on the internalisation of the NC(V) L2 and L3 examinations, and the cessation of quality assurance by UMALUSI. NC(V) L2 and L3 qualifications have been collapsed as stand-alone qualifications, and are now part of a single 3-year qualification culminating in an NC(V) L4 Certificate. In practice, NC(V) L2, L3 and L4 are now one 3-year qualification, which means that at the completion

ACADEMIC MATTERS

ACADEMIC MATTERS

of L2 and L3, no single certificates shall be issued by the DHET – only the L4 Certificate shall be issued after L2, L3 and L4 are completed. Additionally, L2 and L3 examinations shall be decentralised, and will now be the responsibility of TVET College regions and colleges themselves.

Representation of TVET sector at South Africa and China seminar on Higher Education Entrepreneurship Curriculum Development

From 2 to 22 June 2025, I had the privilege of representing our college at the South Africa Seminar on Higher Education Entrepreneurship Curriculum Development, hosted by Beijing Jiaotong University in Beijing, China. This prestigious three-week programme brought together a delegation of 25 South African university-, TVET college- and CET college leaders and managers to explore innovative approaches to integrating entrepreneurship within academic curricula. The seminar provided an immersive learning experience through expert-led lectures, case studies, simulations, and site visits to leading innovation hubs and enterprises such as Huawei, ZTE, and Zhongguancun

Entrepreneurship Street—often referred to as China’s “Silicon Valley.” As participants, we engaged deeply with topics such as global trends in innovation and entrepreneurship, AI empowerment in enterprise development, strategic planning and leadership for innovation projects, and intellectual property management and technology transfer. The programme also emphasised the importance of developing effective entrepreneurship ecosystems through incubation platforms, mentorship, and policy support. By engaging directly with Chinese academics, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders, we gained valuable insights into how education systems can align with national innovation priorities and foster entrepreneurial capacity among students.

The seminar reinforced the view that entrepreneurship education must transcend the boundaries of business studies to become a core component of all academic and vocational programmes. One of the strongest lessons was that entrepreneurship is not merely about starting a business—it is about cultivating an entrepreneurial mind-set that promotes creativity, adaptability, and innovation in any professional field. The Chinese model showcased how well-structured partnerships between universities, industries, and government agencies can drive innovation and support student-led enterprise development through incubation, funding, and mentorship networks. Another key takeaway was the central role of technology and digital transformation in modern entrepreneurship—especially in leveraging AI, big data, and cloud computing for enterprise growth and social impact. For the TVET sector in South Africa, these lessons underscore the urgent need to embed entrepreneurial competencies within programmes, especially newer occupational qualifications, strengthen work-integrated learning, and create local innovation ecosystems that link colleges with industry partners and communities. Such an approach would not only enhance graduate employability but also position our colleges as active contributors to local economic development and national innovation goals.

Looking ahead to 2026

As the 2025 academic year draws to a close, it is evident that the year has been a catalyst for transformation within the college and the broader TVET landscape. The successful implementation of national directives, particularly the phase-out of legacy qualifications and the introduction of occupational qualifications, has positioned the college firmly on a trajectory of modernization, relevance, and impact. These changes, while challenging, have laid a strong foundation for the next chapter of our college’s transformation. In 2026, the Academic Unit will continue driving this transformation through the expansion of QCTO-aligned programmes, the strengthening of lecturer capacity, and the enhancement of teaching and learning infrastructure to support industry-responsive training. The year ahead will therefore focus on consolidating progress—ensuring that each department, campus, and lecturer is equipped to deliver quality, occupationally oriented education that meets national standards and industry expectations. Emphasis will be placed on building stronger linkages with employers, expanding opportunities for work-integrated learning, and fostering a culture of innovation, accountability, and excellence across the college. As we look to 2026, we shall continue producing graduates who are not only employable but who can create employment, drive innovation, and contribute meaningfully to South Africa’s socio-economic transformation.

ORBIT COLLEGE DELEGATION EXPLORES INNOVATION AT HUAWEI SMART CAMPUS

By Mariette Viljoen – ASD Marketing and Communication

On Tuesday, 18 March 2025, a delegation from ORBIT College, comprising lecturing and support staff visited the Huawei Smart Campus in Woodmead, Johannesburg, to gain first-hand insight into some of the latest advancements in digital technology. The group was introduced to a range of cutting-edge solutions, including interactive digital classroom technology, advanced security systems, and other innovative tools shaping the future of education and business.

The Huawei Smart Campus is a state-of-the-art facility designed to showcase how digitalisation and intelligent infrastructure can transform the way institutions operate. The campus integrates smart classrooms, cloud-based solutions, energy-efficient systems, and next-generation security into one holistic environment. It demonstrates how digital ecosystems can drive collaboration, improve teaching and learning outcomes, and strengthen institutional management.



Mr P Nkaku (middle) formed part of a South African delegation who attended the SA seminar on Higher Education Entrepreneurship Curriculum Development held in Beijing China



Pictured here is the ORBIT College delegation who visited the Huawei Smart Campus in Woodmead, Johannesburg on 18 March

For ORBIT College, the visit was particularly significant. As the institution continues to embrace digital transformation and prepare students for future-ready careers, the insights gained at Huawei provide valuable direction.

The delegation’s exposure to these solutions underlines ORBIT’s commitment to integrating smart technologies into teaching, learning, and administration — ensuring that both staff and students remain at the forefront of technological advancement.

IGNITE YOUR FUTURE: WHY EVERY STUDENT SHOULD THINK LIKE AN ENTREPRENEUR

By Peter Matlou – Centre Manager



Entrepreneurs in the making!

In today’s fast-changing world, success is no longer defined by simply finding a job — it’s about creating opportunities. The future belongs to innovators, problem-solvers, and dreamers who turn ideas into impact. This is the mindset that ORBIT TVET College seeks to instil in its students through the Centre for Entrepreneurship Rapid Incubator (CfERI).

The CfERI exists to provide enterprise development services, guidance, and incubation opportunities for College graduates and members of focused communities. Its purpose is to support students in translating their skills and ideas into viable businesses, particularly for those who may not immediately find opportunities in the labour market. By promoting entrepreneurship, assisting graduates in creating self-employment, and incubating promising youth-owned enterprises — especially in sectors like Automotive Repair and Maintenance — the Centre ensures that students are not just ready for the workplace, but empowered to shape their own professional futures.

Thinking like an entrepreneur equips students with the ability to take control of their journey. It encourages a proactive approach to life and work, nurturing leadership, creativity, resilience, and problem-solving skills. Challenges that might otherwise feel like obstacles — such as unemployment or gaps in local services — are transformed into opportunities for innovation and social impact. The CfERI provides the tools, mentorship, and practical support that make turning these ideas into real businesses possible, offering world-class enterprise development services to ensure graduates can thrive.

Entrepreneurship is not only about starting a business; it’s about making a difference. With energy, creativity, and bold ideas, students can become agents of change in their communities, transforming industries and improving lives. The CfERI serves as a launchpad for these ambitions, helping students start where they are, grow with guidance, and build ventures that combine purpose with opportunity. Success begins with a mindset. Every great entrepreneur once started with a dream and the courage to act. ORBIT TVET College demonstrates its commitment to fostering an entrepreneurial mindset by providing students with access to the Centre for Entrepreneurship, where programmes and support are offered to guide their journey toward successful entrepreneurship.

WORK INTEGRATED LEARNING (WIL) ENGINEERING STUDENTS RECEIVE TOOLBOXES



Electrical Engineering learners hosted at Electro-Diesel Group (EDG) and Mechanical Engineering Learners hosted at Thywill Engineering in Mogwase Industrial, receive fully equipped toolboxes to support their practical training over the 24-month programme. Provided through the National Skills Fund, these toolboxes are a critical investment in ensuring learners gain industry-relevant skills and hands-on workplace experience, preparing them for sustainable careers in the engineering sector.



ACADEMIC MATTERS

ACADEMIC MATTERS

BUILDING SKILLS, SHAPING FUTURES: NSF MILESTONES AT ORBIT TVET COLLEGE

By Joseph Sengooba - NSF Project Manager

Every project is a journey with a clear destination in mind, guided by specific goals and a roadmap of activities. At its core, a project is a temporary endeavour designed to deliver unique outcomes within set parameters of time, budget, and scope. Successful implementation requires careful planning, consistent monitoring, collaboration among stakeholders, and above all, a shared commitment to quality and accountability.

The NSF Project at ORBIT TVET College embodies these principles. Over the past year, the project has made significant strides, translating plans into tangible results. One of the notable achievements has been the successful completion of the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Level 4 and Level 5 programmes, which mark a vital contribution to addressing critical skills needs in the education sector. In addition, the project has recorded commendable learner participation, with 162 out of 237 learners enrolled and progressing through their learning pathways. From a financial management perspective, the project has achieved close to 54% claim of the allocated budget, reflecting disciplined stewardship of resources and alignment of expenditure with deliverables.

These milestones demonstrate both efficiency and accountability in ensuring that every rand spent contributes directly to learner development and institutional growth. Equally important has been the spirit of collaboration. Stakeholders, including funders, host employers, campuses, and facilitators, have worked in synergy to create an enabling environment for the learners. Each campus has played a vital role in carrying responsibility for the project's success, ensuring that learners are supported and that the quality of delivery remains consistent across sites. As we reflect on the achievements of the first year of this three-year project, it is clear that the foundation has been laid for even greater impact in the years ahead.

ORBIT LEARNERS RISING THROUGH NSF SUPPORT

By Joseph Sengooba - NSF Project Manager



Mr R Mothudi (left) – Artisan at ThyWill Engineering Company who supervises the NSF Beneficiaries and Learners completing their 24-month practical training in Boiler-making as well as Fitting and Turning. The Learners from right - left: Ms B Mororo, Mr A Suguola and Ms I Seswana.

The achievements to date stand as testimony to the hard work of all involved. The oversight and guidance provided by the NSF Senior Managers in Pretoria has been invaluable in ensuring alignment with national objectives and maintaining a high standard of implementation. Equally inspiring has been the collaborative teamwork within ORBIT itself. Campus Managers, together with the Heads of Department for Partnerships and Artisan Development, have worked side by side with facilitators and support staff to ensure that learners receive the best possible experience. This synergy has been a critical factor in the project's ongoing success. Our milestones include the successful completion of the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Level 4 and Level 5 programmes, at Brits Campus which address a vital skills gap in the education sector.

We have also seen strong learner participation, with 162 of the 237 beneficiaries actively engaged in their programmes. These results, alongside disciplined management of project resources, reflect the College's commitment to quality and accountability.

As we look ahead, I would like to extend a heartfelt message to all 162 beneficiaries enrolled so far: you have been given a rare and valuable opportunity. The funding you have received for your learning programmes and artisanships represents a significant investment in your future. I urge you to approach your studies with dedication, resilience, and a spirit of innovation. The responsibility now rests with you to ensure that this opportunity is not only utilised, but transformed into success stories that will inspire others and contribute to the growth of our nation.

The National Skills Fund (NSF) Project is a flagship initiative of the Department of Higher Education and Training, designed to expand opportunities for young people across South Africa. Implemented at all 50 public TVET Colleges, and in partnership with private service providers, the project is now in its third phase. Its focus remains clear: to enhance youth employability and promote entrepreneurship by equipping learners with industry-relevant skills, practical workplace exposure, and pathways to sustainable livelihoods. At ORBIT TVET College, we are proud to be part of this national drive to transform education into meaningful opportunities. Over the course of this project, our NSF Team has demonstrated commitment and excellence, ensuring that the programmes offered not only meet national priorities but also respond to the needs of our communities.

BUILDING SKILLS, SHAPING FUTURES: NSF MILESTONES AT ORBIT TVET COLLEGE

By Joseph Sengooba - NSF Project Manager



Ms Meriam Malebo – NSF Regional Manager - NW, GP, FS (holding mic) addresses the participants of the Audit Readiness Workshop at Tshwane South College, Centurion Campus held on 22 April 2025

On 22 April 2025, the ORBIT TVET College NSF Project Team joined delegates from across the Gauteng, North West, and Free State provinces at the National Skills Fund Audit Readiness Workshop, held at Tshwane South TVET College – Centurion Campus in Centurion, Gauteng. The workshop, convened by the NSF Regional Manager (North West, Gauteng and Free State) brought together various Skills Development Providers (SDPs), Project managers, Project Accountants, and Administration staff to reinforce compliance standards and enhance institutional readiness for upcoming NSF audits, by the Auditor General. With audit integrity and accountability at the forefront of skills development funding, this workshop served as a timely intervention to ensure that all stakeholders remain aligned with regulatory and financial reporting expectations.

The ORBIT TVET College delegation actively participated in discussions, and interactive Q&A sessions that focused on critical areas such as procurement compliance, record keeping, expenditure tracking, and project reporting. Key topics included: budget line item expenditures, the management of learner stipends, evidence of attendance registers and timesheets, and reconciliations, all of which are central to the proper administration of NSF funded initiatives and project deliverables. A representative from the NSF emphasized: "Audit readiness is not just a matter of compliance—it's about ensuring public trust and demonstrating that resources are used responsibly to empower learners. Institutions must develop a culture of transparency, accuracy, and accountability." The workshop also provided an important networking platform for NSF teams across the three provinces, encouraging collaboration and the exchange of best practices in grant management.

ORBIT TVET College, which continues to play a pivotal role in facilitating industry-aligned skills development, reaffirmed its commitment to upholding the highest standards of governance in the delivery of its NSF programmes. Reflecting on the session, a member of ORBIT's NSF Project Team shared: "The workshop was insightful and practical. It helped us identify areas of improvement and gave us tools to ensure we are always audit-ready. We're proud to be part of a system that values accountability as much as development." As ORBIT TVET College continues to deliver on its mandate of empowering youth through skills development, workshops such as these ensure that every step taken is aligned with responsible and transparent use of public funds.

Forging Futures Together: Industry Collaboration showcased at the G20 Education Working Group Meeting

By Joseph Sengooba - NSF Project Manager



"Minister for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Ms. Sindisiwe Chikunga (wearing a white cap), listens attentively to Mr. J. Sengooba, NSF Project Manager at ORBIT TVET College, as he explains the college's programmes and how they are supported through National Skills Fund funding on 03 June 2025 during the NYDA event, launching the Youth Month in Soweto"

The vibrant atmosphere at Uncle Tom's Community Centre in Soweto was electrified with the energy of South Africa's youth, as the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) officially launched Youth Month, on Tuesday, 3 June 2025. ORBIT TVET College's NSF Project Team proudly took part in this prestigious national event, making their presence felt and showcasing the College's commitment to empowering young people. Representing the College with distinction, the NSF (National Skills Fund) Project Team joined scores of youth-focused stakeholders, government representatives, and community members in a celebration that emphasized youth empowerment, skills development, and economic participation. The event theme, "Skills for the Changing World – Empowering Youth for Meaningful Economic Participation", aligned closely with the NSF Project's core mission providing students with hands-on opportunities to apply their training in real-world environments, for employability and entrepreneurship development.

The ORBIT delegation, engaged with attendees through vibrant exhibitions and interactive discussions, offering insights into the range of vocational and occupational education opportunities available at the College. The NSF Project Team proudly demonstrated how the College's skills-based programmes are equipping young South Africans with the competencies needed to thrive in a changing economy. Speaking at the event, a member of the NSF Project Team shared: "Participating in the Youth Month Launch gave us a platform not only to celebrate our youth but to affirm the role that TVET Colleges play in building a skilled and empowered generation. We are proud to be part of the solution." The NYDA launch also featured motivational speeches, panel discussions, and cultural performances—all designed to ignite passion, purpose, and participation among the youth. The event served as a powerful reminder that collaboration between education institutions, government, and civil society is key to unlocking the potential of South Africa's young people.

ORBIT TVET College's participation in the event further cemented its role as a catalyst for development and change—committed to ensuring that no youth is left behind. As the NSF Project Team returned home, they brought with them a renewed sense of purpose, inspired by the connections made and the message that youth are not just the future—they are the now.

HR MATTERS HR MATTERS

FROM THE HR MANAGER'S DESK

By Gilbert Mafojane – ASD Human Resource Management & Development/ Acting Deputy Principal Corporate Services



Mr G Mafojane
ASD Human Resource Management
Acting Deputy Principal: Corporate Services

2025 was a year with its own peculiar challenges and achievements. It is time for us now to reflect and take time off to spend with our beloved families and friends. As we conclude 2025, allow me to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the HR team for their unwavering support, dedication, teamwork, and commitment throughout the 2025 performance cycle. Your efforts will never go unnoticed as your contributions have been instrumental in maintaining labour peace and stability across the College. To ensure that there is stability and labour peace within the College, all staff members were sensitised and empowered on HR-related matters. The unit convened workshops across the sites, addressing conditions of service issues, including housing allowances and medical aid benefits.

Welcoming new appointee

We are delighted welcome the following colleague who was appointed in a permanent vacant post:

Name	Employment Type	Appointment Date	Designation	Site/Campus
Nomfundiso Sidzumo	Permanent	01/06/2025	Assistant Director : Management Accounting	Central Office

Congratulations are in order Ms Sidzumo! We are confident that your contributions will contribute immensely to the success of the institution.

Human Resource Development

Congratulations to Dr Nthako on her tremendous achievement. She started her PhD in Educational Management in 2021, completed her studies in 2024 and graduated on 20 October 2025. The College is very proud of you, and you will remain an inspiration to all of us. The College further prides itself in the progress made by support and lecturing colleagues who are rapidly improving their professional and academic qualifications. More than 15 employees acquired their Honours Degrees and Advanced Diploma in TVET with Vaal University of Technology and Tshwane University of Technology respectively. We wish our colleagues who are busy with their final examinations the best of luck. Your dedication and commitment to upskilling yourself in acquiring professional and academic qualifications is commendable, and we look forward to the positive impact, initiatives, innovations and progressive inputs that will emanate from your dedication to the benefit of the college.



Dr D Nthako graduated from UNISA on 20 October 2025

The College will continue to invest in its support and academic staff through provision of bursaries from the internal coffers and those of external funders. During the 2025 second semester, the College secured a grant amounting to R360 000 from ETDP SETA. A portion thereof will be utilised for capacitation of general workers and the remainder will be directed to bursaries. MQA is also still on board, supporting more than 30 lecturers who are pursuing their academic and professional qualifications. We are delighted to have SETAs who are assisting in ensuring that our staff members are funded to acquire qualifications.

PMDS updates

The central moderation process for 2024/25 was finalised in September, and the HR team is now verifying submissions and preparing retrospective payments for pay progressions. Midterm reviews are on track for moderation in January 2026.

Employee Health and Wellness

The College takes its employees' health and wellness seriously. Therefore, programmes which support social, physical, financial, psycho-social dimensions are offered. During the 2025 performance cycle, the Central Office wellness team arranged physical activities i.e. hiking, boot camp, step and box, two sessions for health screening and one session for financial literacy. The abovementioned sessions were key in ensuring that staff members' health and wellbeing is supported. As we approach the festive season, I wish you all a safe and joyous holiday. May the coming year bring continued success and abundant blessings.



Central Office staff out an about at their respective wellness activities hosted this year fitr: hiking, boot camp and step-box

FAREWELL
WILLIAM DIALE PONTSHO
MOTAU

03 May 1962 - 06 October 2025

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our esteemed colleague, Mr William Diale Pontsho Motau. Mr Motau was the Senior Lecturer for NCV Mathematics and Mathematics literacy at Mankwe Campus.

Our thoughts and condolences are with Mr Motau's family, colleagues and friends during this difficult time.

Join us in honour and celebration of the life of Mr Motau
Date: 09 October 2025
Time: 12:00
Venue: Mankwe Campus hall

BEYOND GOODBYES

Join us in honour & celebration of the life of
Mr Godfrey Seome

Date: 11 April 2025
Time: 09:45

Venue: Rustenburg Campus Auditorium

Dress code: All black

IN MEMORIAM

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
MR ISAAC
NKOSI

18 November 1960 - 05 April 2025

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our esteemed colleague, Mr Isaac Nkosi. Mr Nkosi was the Senior Lecturer for RPL Business Studies at Brits Campus.

Our thoughts and condolences are with Mr Nkosi's family, colleagues and friends during this difficult time.



IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved colleague, Ms Beitumelo Mary Tshenye. Ms Tshenye was a General Worker at Mankwe Campus.

Our thoughts and condolences are with Ms Tshenye's family, colleagues and friends during this difficult time.

Details of the memorial service will be communicated in due course.

CAMPUS MATTERS

CAMPUS MATTERS

ORBIT TVET COLLEGE OPEN DAYS INSPIRE FUTURE LEARNERS DURING TVET MONTH 2025

By Mariette Viljoen – ASD Marketing and Communication

As part of the TVET College Month 2025 celebrations, ORBIT TVET College hosted dynamic Open Days at both its Brits and Mankwe Campuses, creating vibrant platforms for learners to explore the exciting world of Technical and Vocational Education and Training.

The events were attended by Grade 9, 10, and 11 learners, accompanied by Life Orientation teachers from selected secondary schools in the Bojanala District, who were eager to learn more about the diverse programmes and career pathways offered by the College. The primary purpose of these Open Days was to promote the opportunities available within TVET education, while encouraging learners to consider National Certificate (Vocational) [NC(V)] programmes as a first-choice option for their future studies. At the same time, the College reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining strong enrolments in Report 191 Engineering and Occupational Programmes, ensuring a balanced focus across all training streams.

Both campuses showcased a wide range of innovative and industry-aligned facilities designed to prepare students for the evolving job market. Key attractions included the Centre of Specialisation (COS), Artificial Intelligence and Robotics programmes, and the Smart Skills Centre, which drew great interest from visiting learners. The Mankwe Campus additionally highlighted its Tourism and Hospitality Departments, Centre for Entrepreneurship Rapid Incubator (CfERI), and Trade Test Centre, all of which play a vital role in promoting self-employment, skills recognition, and business innovation among graduates. Through interactive exhibitions, demonstrations, and campus tours, learners gained first-hand experience of how ORBIT TVET College equips students with practical, work-ready skills that lead to meaningful careers or entrepreneurial ventures. Lecturers and current students were on hand to share insights and success stories, helping to demystify the TVET learning experience.

The Open Days reinforced ORBIT TVET College's message that TVET Colleges are institutions of choice for skills, innovation, and growth. By engaging directly with young people, the College continues to play a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of skilled professionals who will contribute to South Africa's economic and social development.



BRITS CAMPUS: A NEW ERA OF SKILLS AND INNOVATION

By Ethel Ngwato – Acting Brits Campus Manager



Ms E Ngwato
Acting Brits Campus Manager

The Brits Campus is buzzing with excitement as it prepares to become a powerhouse for Occupational Programmes starting in 2026. This transformation goes beyond a mere refresh — it represents a complete shift in focus, designed to equip students with practical, industry-relevant skills and foster entrepreneurial mind-sets.

The new line-up of programmes has been carefully selected to provide clear pathways to both employment and self-employment. Students can look forward to building careers in Early Childhood Development (ECD), Electrical Trades, Project Management, or as a Carpenter and Joiner. By aligning education with the real-world demands of industry, Brits Campus is ensuring that its graduates are not only ready for work but are also prepared to create opportunities for themselves and their communities.

Innovation at the core

While maintaining excellence in traditional trades, Brits Campus continues to lead in technological innovation. As the home of state-of-the-art AI Labs, the campus fosters a culture of high achievement, with students earning international recognition for their work. This success reflects the College's commitment to delivering future-focused education that equips learners with the skills needed to excel in a rapidly evolving world.

The campus also offers specialized skills training in high-demand areas such as:

- Cell Phone Repairs
- Renewable Energy Technologies
- HP Gaming and 3D Printing

These centres ensure that students graduate with adaptable, diverse skillsets ready for the modern digital and technical economy.

Empowering the Community

The impact of Brits Campus extends beyond enrolled students. The CHIETA Skills Centre plays a pivotal role in bridging the digital divide by offering essential computer skills to students, staff, and the wider community. By empowering individuals with the knowledge to secure employment or launch small businesses, the campus is helping to transform local ideas into sustainable ventures.

The campus team shares a unified vision: to equip the community with cutting-edge skills, whether for employment in emerging occupational fields or for entrepreneurship as job creators. Brits Campus is working tirelessly to prepare students and community members for a resilient and prosperous future. With the countdown to 2026 underway, Brits Campus is ready to usher in a new era of skilled excellence — where education, innovation, and opportunity converge.

ORBIT TVET COLLEGE STUDENT SHINES AT MOMENTUM GROUP FOUNDATION NATIONAL AWARDS

By Paul Tekana – Brits Campus student liaison officer



Momentum Group Foundation winner Ms Rose Nteseng (right) with Mr Paul Tekana (left)

Brits Campus student, Ms Rose Nteseng, has brought pride to ORBIT TVET College after being recognised among the top six students nationally in the Momentum Group Foundation Financial Literacy Workshop National Awards, held on Thursday, 5 August 2025, at the Sandton Hotel in Gauteng.

Ms Nteseng, a L3 Robotics student, was accompanied by Mr Paul Tekana, the Student Liaison Officer at Brits Campus, as she received her certificate of excellence and a cash prize of R2 500 for her outstanding performance.

Her achievement stands out all the more impressively as she competed alongside university students from across the country.

The event celebrated the impactful journey of the Motheo Financial Dialogues and Collective Shapers Savvy Starters Initiatives, which promote financial literacy, responsible money management, and community upliftment. These initiatives, driven by the Momentum Group Foundation, aim to empower young people to make informed financial decisions that contribute to their personal and professional growth.

The Face-to-Face Programme of the initiative was successfully rolled out across all three ORBIT TVET College campuses earlier this year. At Brits Campus, the sessions took place from 07–11 April 2025, attracting nearly 100 enthusiastic student participants who engaged in discussions and practical exercises designed to build financial confidence and awareness.

Ms Nteseng's national recognition is a testament to her hard work, commitment, and passion for learning — and it reflects the College's ongoing efforts to provide students with opportunities that extend beyond the classroom.

ORBIT TVET College congratulates Ms. Nteseng on her exceptional achievement and commends the Momentum Group Foundation for its continued partnership in empowering students through financial education and skills for life.

CAMPUS MATTERS

CAMPUS MATTERS

TRAILBLAZERS GRADUATE FROM CELLPHONE AND LAPTOP REPAIR PROGRAMME

By Ethel Ngwato – Acting Brits Campus Manager



The graduates from the cellphone & laptop repair programme celebrated their success during a special ceremony hosted at Brits Campus

On 23 May 2025, ORBIT TVET College celebrated the graduation of the second cohort of students from the Trailblazer Laptop and Cellphone Repair Short Programme at Brits Campus. The ceremony was attended by graduates, the College Principal, the Acting Campus Manager, and representatives from MICT SETA.

This graduation marks a significant milestone in the College's mission to equip young people — especially women — with practical ICT skills that open doors to employment and entrepreneurship. Each graduate received a fully equipped toolbox, empowering them to start their own repair businesses and apply their knowledge in real-world settings.

Through initiatives like this, ORBIT TVET College continues to develop practical skills, foster innovation, and create opportunities for students to thrive in the digital economy.

FROM DUSTY ROADS TO DATA SCIENCE: THE JOURNEY OF TWO YOUNG INNOVATORS

By Ethel Ngwato – Acting Brits Campus Manager



Justice Lengeni (left) and Johannes Mokami (right)

In the heart of the deep rural lands of Brits, North West, South Africa, where dusty gravel roads meander through fields of maize and cattle graze under the African sun, two young boys dared to dream beyond the visible horizon. Johannes Mokami and Justice Langeni were not born into privilege, but they were born with something far greater — curiosity, grit, and the audacity to believe they could change the future.

From an early age, the two were inseparable. Their friendship was forged on school benches and football fields, but their bond was cemented through a shared fascination with technology. Even with limited access to the internet and only a single old computer at their local community centre, they spent hours teaching themselves how to code, debug, and learn about the world of artificial intelligence.

By the time they reached matric, the pair had already begun working on a project that would change their lives forever. They called it “AI for the Future Workforce” — a grassroots initiative aimed at training rural youth in basic AI and machine learning skills using low-cost tools and accessible language. Their goal was not fame or fortune. It was simple: to make sure no one got left behind in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Their passion and ingenuity caught the attention of a local mentor, who encouraged them to enter their project into the Intel Global Impact Competition 2023, a prestigious international challenge that sought the brightest young minds in tech. Against all odds, and among thousands of entries from across the globe, Johannes and Justice's project stood out — not only for its innovation, but for its heart. In late 2023, the announcement came: they had won.

The small villages of Brits erupted in pride. These boys — once overlooked and underestimated had put their community on the global map. Their victory earned them not just global recognition, but also internships with IDT (Intermediate Data System), a leading African tech company

focused on AI solutions for the continent.

At IDT, Johannes and Justice thrived. Their rural roots had taught them resilience, resourcefulness, and a deep understanding of the real-world problems that AI could help solve — from agriculture and education to healthcare and rural development. Within a year, both were offered full-time positions as AI and Machine Learning Engineers.

Today, Johannes Mokami and Justice Langeni are not only engineers — they are mentors, innovators, and storytellers. They continue to expand their AI for the Future Workforce programme, reaching schools across the North West Province and beyond. Their journey is proof that brilliance is not limited by geography, and that with the right support, dreams from even the most remote corners of the world can touch the stars.

EMPOWERING THE UNHEARD: KATLEGO AND KENOSI LEAD THE WAY IN AI INNOVATION

By Ethel Ngwato – Acting Brits Campus Manager



Katlego Sebjane and Kenosi Rakhalane

In the quiet rural township of Letlhabile, just outside Brits in South Africa's North West province, two determined youths dared to break the silence — not just their own, but the silence faced by millions in the deaf and hard-of-hearing community.

Katlego Sebjane and Kenosi Rakhalane, both raised by single parents, grew up in households where sacrifice was a language spoken daily, and dreams were nurtured under modest tin roofs. Though resources were scarce, their mothers instilled in them the power of education, humility, and purpose.

It was in an Intel AI for Future Workforce Programme that the two first met, bonding over a mutual interest in technology and a shared frustration: Why, in an age of AI, were people with hearing and speech impairments still being left behind?

That question sparked an idea. What if they could build an AI-powered system that could translate sign language into both text and speech — bridging communication gaps, opening up access to education, jobs, and healthcare for the deaf community?

What started as a side project using borrowed laptops and after-school coding sessions became something much bigger: “Hands to Voice” — an AI innovation that uses computer vision and natural language processing to translate South African Sign Language (SASL) into real-time voice and text — was born. The system is designed with inclusivity at its core — locally trained, multilingual, and cost-effective.

Their ground-breaking project caught the attention of the ELE-vate AI Innovation Hub, where they not only won the top innovation award in 2024 but also received the Tanzanian Presidential Award for Youth Tech Excellence — a moment that changed their lives forever.

But they did not stop there.

In 2025, they entered the Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF) — Africa's premier platform for innovation and economic collaboration. Competing against top research teams from across the continent, “Hands to Voice” took first place and was honoured as the Best Research Hub Project of the Year.

Their journey from rural Letlhabile to continental champions became a beacon of hope and pride for young innovators across South Africa. Now in 2025, Katlego and Kenosi have taken their mission to the global stage. They recently signed a strategic partnership with ArabBank, one of the largest banks in the Middle East and North Africa, to commercialise and scale their solution across Africa and the Arab world — where millions more live without access to inclusive communication technologies.

Their innovation is not just a product — it is a movement.

Today, “Hands to Voice” is being piloted in schools, hospitals, and public service offices, turning what was once a barrier into a bridge. Katlego and Kenosi continue to mentor rural youth, proving that no matter your background, your voice — whether spoken, signed, or coded — matters.

As they often say in interviews:

“We didn't just build technology. We built a voice for the unheard.”

And that voice is now echoing across the world.



CAMPUS MATTERS

COMMUNITY CONEXIONS



Digital Skills Training – Rustenburg Campus (2–4 September 2025): Forty IT students participated in a three-day training facilitated by Mr. Lazarus Sithagu, focusing on career planning, opportunities in the digital economy, and employability skills. Students who submitted their portfolios of evidence received certificates of attendance, marking an important step in their journey toward digital career readiness.



Human Rights Dialogue – Rustenburg Campus (27 March 2025): Forty-five students from various courses attended an engaging session aimed at raising awareness about the Human Rights Commission, its accessibility, and the importance of human rights as outlined in the Bill of Rights. The dialogue also provided insights into the upcoming G20 initiatives.



On Monday, 27 October 2025, Mr Kgomonngwe Masego Wessels, L3 IT Robotics student (seated) sadly passed on. He was nominated for upcoming BPC Project to China. On the photo he is flanked by the lecturer, National & international expert Mr Mulaudzi!



A graduation ceremony was hosted at for the 2024 Beauty and Nail Technology graduates from the 2024 NARYSEC project funded by Agriculture & Rural Development Department. Seated in front from left; Ms Mpoae, General Administrator, Ms Matsho, Beauty & Nail Technology Facilitator, Ms Kgaboesele, Campus Manager & Ms Thupana, Beauty & Nail Technology lecturer



Students at Mankwe Campus attended an LGBTQIA+ awareness session on 9 May 2025, hosted in the campus auditorium. The session, presented by a representative from the Colour Me Foundation, aimed to raise awareness and promote understanding of LGBTQIA+ issues among students.



Brits Campus Celebration of Casual Day with Rekgone Bapo Special School
The campus also reached out to learners of the Rekgone Bapo Special School in Brits during an information sharing session on Friday, 05 September to share in their Casual Day celebrations.



The Mankwe Campus Manager, Ms W Molapi (left) received the North West Rainbow Recognition Award from Student Support following a presentation by the Colour Me Foundation—recognising Mankwe Campus as an inclusive and supportive environment for the LGBTQIA+ community.



Mankwe Campus SRC members, joined by Student Support Services and staff from St Katherine Hospice, Mogwase during an outreach programme held on Wednesday, 13 August 2025—giving back to the less fortunate and making a positive impact in the community.

EMPOWERING RUSTENBURG'S EMERGING FARMERS THROUGH POST-HARVEST EXCELLENCE

By Renoir Hindley – Project Coordinator Stellenbosch University Water Institute



Attendees of the Post-Harvest Management training session offered at ORBIT College Rustenburg Campus included emerging farmers, supply chain managers and students

In a powerful boost for local agriculture, Orbit TVET College (Rustenburg Campus) recently partnered with Stellenbosch University's Water Institute to host a transformative four-day short course on Post-Harvest Management. The training forms part of the Rustenburg Agricultural Development Initiative, generously funded by the Sibanye Rustenburg Mine Community Development Trust.

The course, which drew emerging farmers, supply chain managers, and students, focused on essential post-harvest practices for high-value crops like tomatoes and potatoes. Topics included best practices for handling produce, optimal storage methods, quality monitoring, cold chain management, and efficient transportation—all vital components in reducing food loss and increasing profitability for local growers.

Leading the programme were two prominent researchers from Stellenbosch University's AgriFood BioSystems & Technovation Research Group at the Africa Institute for Postharvest Technology, Dr. Oluwafemi James Caleb and Dr. Buhle Maphosa. Their expert guidance offered attendees both theoretical

knowledge and practical, hands-on experience in managing post-harvest processes.

Participants also had the opportunity to visit the Freshling facility in Rustenburg, arranged through the earlier involvement of the local SPAR. The tour provided invaluable insights into temperature control systems and modern storage protocols, giving participants a real-world look into the standards required for commercial success in the fresh produce sector. This initiative represents more than just skills development—it is a strategic investment in strengthening Rustenburg's local food systems and fostering long-term sustainability. By bridging knowledge gaps, the training is empowering local producers to build more resilient and economically viable agricultural enterprises.

The College extends its gratitude to all facilitators, participants, and local SMMEs, including vegetable growers, whose passion and participation made this initiative a success. A special word of thanks also goes to stakeholders such as the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) and AgriSETA for their ongoing support in agricultural skills development.

As the agricultural landscape continues to evolve, Orbit TVET College remains committed to playing a central role in preparing local farmers for success in a competitive and changing world.

#Agriculture #PostHarvestManagement #FoodSecurity #CommunityDevelopment #OrbitTVETCollege #StellenboschUniversity #SibanyeStillwater #Rustenburg

DHET DELEGATION VISIT BEIJING POLYTECH COLLEGE, CHINA

By Dr Joe Viljoen - Deputy Principal Innovation and Development



A delegation from the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), led by Deputy Director-General for the TVET Branch, Mr Sam Zungu, visited Beijing Polytechnic College (BPC) in China from 7–13 July 2025. Dr Joe Viljoen, Deputy Principal: Innovation and Development at ORBIT TVET College, formed part of the delegation.

The visit forms part of the implementation of the Joint Declaration of Cooperation signed during the State Visit to China in September 2024, aimed at strengthening collaboration between nine South African TVET Colleges — including ORBIT TVET College — and BPC. The delegation's mission focused on finalising plans for the first cohort of 100 student exchanges set to commence in September 2025 in fields such as electric vehicles, renewable energy, robotics, artificial intelligence, and big data analytics.

COMMUNITY CONEXIONS

COMMUNITY CONEXIONS

ORBIT TVET COLLEGE HOSTS 2025 WORK-INTEGRATED LEARNING (WIL) EMPLOYER FUNCTION

By Nnane Rakhudu – Senior Placement Officer



Ms Rakhudu, Senior Placement Officer opened the session and explained the purpose of the day to the attendees

The 2025 Host Employer Function for Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) was held on Thursday, 28 August 2025, at ORBIT TVET College's Rustenburg Campus. The event brought together College representatives, host employers, and interns to strengthen partnerships and enhance collaboration in support of workplace-based learning opportunities for students.

The purpose of the event was to acknowledge the vital role played by host employers in providing students with practical, real-world experience, while also creating a platform to share insights, best practices, and feedback on the WIL programme. The gathering served as an important networking opportunity for employers and the College to align efforts in preparing students for the demands of the modern workplace.

The programme was directed by Mr Molefe, Computer Practice Lecturer at the Rustenburg Campus, with Dr J. Viljoen, Deputy Principal: Innovation, emphasising the importance of strong industry partnerships in advancing the College's vision. Presentations were delivered by Mr J. Sengooba on placement and funding processes, Ms L Peyper on logbook management, and employer representatives Ms P Panane from

Job Shimankane Tabane Hospital and Ms K Sejamoholo from Lekabe Engineering, who shared valuable workplace experiences.

College staff, interns, and host employers participated actively in the event, reflecting a united commitment to strengthening industry collaboration and enhancing student employability through Work-Integrated Learning.

What made this year's event even more special was that interviews with selected stakeholders were broadcast live on YouFM during the proceedings, allowing a wider audience to gain insight into the College's impactful WIL initiatives and the success stories emerging from industry partnerships.

The 2025 WIL Host Employer Function once again demonstrated ORBIT TVET College's dedication to bridging the gap between education and employment through meaningful collaboration with industry partners and innovative public engagement.



Dr Viljoen, Deputy Principal Innovation & Development provided host employers who were in attendance with information on the importance of strong industry partnerships



Mr Sengooba, NSF Project Manager explained the placement and funding process of Work Integrated Learnsip (WIL)

ORBIT TVET COLLEGE PARTNERS WITH GIZ AND MICROSOFT TO EMPOWER YOUTH WITH DIGITAL SKILLS

By Dr Joe Viljoen – Deputy Principal Innovation and Development



A delegation from GIZ, Germany visited Brits Campus as part of the newly forged partnership with ORBIT College to empower the youth with digital skills

ORBIT TVET College is proud to announce an exciting new partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, in collaboration with Microsoft South Africa, to prepare young people for careers in the rapidly expanding digital economy.

GIZ, a global leader in international cooperation for sustainable development, works closely with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Through the Digital Skills for Jobs and Income II (DS4JI II) project, GIZ is helping young South Africans—especially women—gain the knowledge, tools, and opportunities they need to access meaningful employment in the digital sector.

The DS4JI II Project: A National Drive for Digital Futures

Running from April 2024 to March 2027, the DS4JI II project supports young people across South Africa, both those in TVET Colleges and those not currently in education or employment. The project focuses on four key areas:

- Career Orientation and Guidance – Helping students explore digital careers and plan their career pathways.
- Skills Development – Offering targeted, demand-driven digital training aligned with industry needs.

- Transition to Employment – Supporting learners in finding jobs or starting their own digital businesses.
- Evidence-based Career Pathways – Using labour market research to define clear, realistic career routes.

At ORBIT, this means students in ICT-related programmes will benefit from structured support as they prepare to enter South Africa's increasingly digitalised workforce.

Microsoft Ikamva Digital Platform: Opening Doors to Digital Careers

A major highlight of this partnership is the introduction of the Microsoft Ikamva Digital Platform, unveiled in a live demonstration and Q&A session attended by ORBIT staff and students.

The platform offers free learning materials and certifications across five digital career pathways:

- Data Pathway – Data analysis, AI, and machine learning
- Cloud Pathway – Cloud computing and IT infrastructure
- Software Pathway – Software development and programming
- IT & Cybersecurity Pathway – Networking, installing, and protecting digital systems
- Digital Creatives Pathway – Content creation, design, and multimedia

In addition to these, the platform includes foundational digital skills and AI training, ensuring that students are not just digitally literate but digitally fluent. According to Tiara Pathon, National Skills Director at Microsoft South Africa, the initiative aims to "equip young people with AI fluency and the digital confidence to thrive in the Fourth Industrial Revolution."

ORBIT's Role: Empowering Students and Staff

Through this collaboration, ORBIT TVET College has:

- Pilot digital career guidance activities with at least 70 ICT students.
- Build staff capacity, train lecturers and student support officers to guide learners on digital career opportunities.
- Collect and analyse data to measure the success of the programme.
- Engage in knowledge exchange with other partner colleges to scale the initiative nationally.

The College reaffirmed its commitment to preparing students for a world of work that is digital, dynamic, and globally connected.

Student Opportunities Ahead

As part of the rollout, students have participated in the Digital Skills Training Week from 25–29 August 2025. This interactive programme helped students to:

- Explore their strengths and career interests (Self-Exploration).
- Understand the wide variety of career opportunities in the digital economy (Career Exploration).
- Make informed decisions and set career goals (Decision-Making).

By combining personal career planning with structured digital training, ORBIT students are able to outline clear, achievable career pathways in technology-driven industries.

A Shared Vision for the Future

This partnership between GIZ, Microsoft, and ORBIT TVET College reflects a shared vision: empowering young South Africans to participate fully in the digital economy, unlocking new pathways for employment, entrepreneurship, and innovation.

With projects like DS4JI II and platforms like Microsoft Ikamva, ORBIT TVET College is positioning its students to be future-ready, globally competitive, and digitally empowered.

IN THE FAST LANE

ORBIT COLLEGE CELEBRATES ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT ANNUAL GRADUATION CEREMONY

By Mariette Viljoen – ASD – Marketing and Communication



More than 200 Diplomandi celebrated their success on 11 September 2025

ORBIT College proudly hosted its annual Graduation Ceremony on 11 and 12 September 2025 at the scenic Hedgehog's Nest Wedding and Conference Centre. This year marked a historic first, as the ceremony was moved from its traditional May slot to September. The change was made to accommodate the G20 delegates' visit to Mankwe Campus preceding the prestigious G20 Seminar on Qualifications earlier in the year, ensuring that both milestone events received the dedicated attention they deserve while further elevating the ORBIT College brand. The two-day celebration honoured the achievements of almost 600 graduates and diplomandi who successfully completed their respective qualifications. In response to the large number of candidates, three separate ceremonies were held. The opening ceremony recognised students awarded National N Diplomas across a wide spectrum of programmes, while the remaining two ceremonies honoured compliant NCV Level 4 graduates from various fields of study.

Among the highlights of the event was the recognition of two exceptional students who achieved Dux status. Ms Kearabilwe

Ruth Sephoti from Brits Campus earned the Dux award for Report 191 studies, achieving an impressive average of 78.33% and six distinctions. Meanwhile, Ms Resegofaditswe Mmeti from Mankwe Campus was awarded the Dux prize for National Certificate (Vocational) studies, achieving an outstanding 85.71% average and an extraordinary nineteen distinctions over three years of study. Their accomplishments stand as a testament to the resilience, discipline, and determination that characterise ORBIT College graduates.

In addition to the Dux awards, sixteen top achievers were also recognised, each maintaining an average of at least 70% in their programmes. These accolades were made possible through the generous support of long-standing College partners. ABSA Bank once again sponsored the top achiever awards, while the coveted Dux awards were sponsored by ABSA Bank, AdaptIT, and Masana Florist. ORBIT College extends heartfelt gratitude to these partners for their continued commitment to celebrating academic excellence.

The College community takes great pride in the success of all its graduates. Management and staff extend warm congratulations to every student who crossed the stage and wish them success as they step into the next phase of their personal and professional journeys. This year's graduation not only marked an important milestone in the lives of nearly 600 students but also underscored ORBIT College's unwavering commitment to nurturing excellence and innovation in higher education.

INSETA CERTIFICATION CEREMONY CELEBRATES ACHIEVEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP

By Nnane Rakhudu – Senior Placement Officer

The Rustenburg Campus Auditorium of ORBIT TVET College came alive on Thursday, 21 August 2025, as 21 interns were honoured at a special INSETA Certification Ceremony. The event marked another milestone in the ongoing partnership between Mofine Development Solutions, INSETA, and ORBIT TVET College—celebrating the successful completion of the Work Readiness Programme.

This ceremony was the second of its kind, following the first successful certification held in 2024, where 71 interns were recognised for their achievement. The programme continues to empower young graduates with essential workplace readiness skills, improving their employability and preparing them for professional growth in the insurance and financial services sectors. The ceremony was attended by a diverse group of representatives from all partner organisations, including Mofine Development Solutions, employer partners from Arephuthaneng Bagaetsho Funeral & Grocery, Celtis Financial Services and learner representatives. Their collective presence reflected the strong collaboration and shared commitment to empowering young people through the INSETA Work Readiness Programme.

INSETA was represented by Mr Nkosinathi Gabuza (Specialist: Strategic Learning Programmes) and Ms Tendani Mavhaga (TVET Coordinator), who both commended the interns for their hard work and highlighted the importance of collaboration in advancing skills development across the TVET sector. ORBIT TVET College staff and several interns also attended the ceremony, demonstrating the College's continued support for its graduates and commitment to strengthening industry partnerships, adding to the celebratory spirit of the occasion. The event underscored ORBIT TVET College's ongoing commitment to building meaningful partnerships that link learning with industry opportunities. By providing students and graduates with access to structured work readiness programmes, the College continues to play a key role in bridging the gap between education and employment.

Congratulations to all the interns on their well-deserved achievement!

IN THE FAST LANE

TVET MUST RISE: ORBIT TVET COLLEGE PARTNERS WITH GCIS TO HOST INSPIRING VUK TALKS SEMINAR

By Mariette Viljoen – ASD – Marketing and Communication



ICT, AI & Robotics students from all sites attended the VUK Talks seminar hosted by GCIS on 23 October 2025

ORBIT TVET College had the honour of partnering with the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) to host the latest edition of the Vuk Talks seminar on Thursday, 23 October 2025 — an event that left students inspired, empowered, and eager to shape the future through innovation and leadership.

The Vuk Talks seminar series is a GCIS initiative presented under the Vuk'uzenzele digital newspaper as part of its broader youth engagement strategy. These seminars are hosted quarterly across the provinces of South Africa, each time focusing on a different region and engaging local youth on topics that matter most — from careers and entrepreneurship to innovation, skills development, and active citizenship. This quarter, it was the North West Province's turn to host the national seminar, and ORBIT TVET College was selected as the venue due to its strong focus on Artificial Intelligence (AI), Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and Robotics — fields that perfectly matched the seminar's target audience.

Held under the theme "TVET Must Rise: Shaping Future Leaders Across All Fields," the event brought together just over 100 ORBIT students — all specialising in AI, ICT, and Robotics — from the College's three campuses. They participated in a dynamic programme filled with talks and presentations on AI, digital innovation, and multimedia content creation. Adding to the excitement, representatives from the Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism (DEDECT) and the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) delivered inspiring presentations that encouraged youth to explore business and career opportunities, while also highlighting the importance of active participation in democratic processes.

ORBIT College students made the institution proud by engaging meaningfully in the interactive sessions, asking insightful questions, and networking with the speakers. Some students exchanged contact details with presenters for potential mentorship and further collaboration — a clear sign that they were ready to take their next step toward leadership and impact.

Through partnerships like this one with GCIS, ORBIT TVET College continues to demonstrate its commitment to empowering youth with the skills, knowledge, and networks needed to thrive in an ever-changing world. The Vuk Talks seminar served as yet another reminder that when TVET rises, so does the future of South Africa.

NORTHWEST TVET COLLEGES INSPIRE LEARNERS AT LEKWA-TEEMANE CAREER EXHIBITION

By Ms Mariette Viljoen – ASD – Marketing and Communication



ORBIT College was well represented at the expo with all college departments exhibiting

As part of efforts to position public TVET Colleges as institutions of choice, the Lekwa-Teemane Parliamentary Constituency Office recently hosted a two-day Career Exhibition in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality of the North West Province. The event, held on 21 and 22 August 2025, created a valuable platform for learners to explore study opportunities within the TVET sector.

The three TVET Colleges in the province — ORBIT, Vuselela, and Taletso — joined forces to showcase their diverse programme offerings and highlight the vital role TVET education plays in skills development and economic growth. ORBIT College was well represented, with interactive and informative exhibition stalls set up by various departments across its campuses. Learners had the unique opportunity to engage directly with lecturers, ask questions, and gain first-hand insights into the different career paths available. The exhibitions took place at Le Rona Secondary School in Christiana on Thursday, 21 August, and at Gaopalelwe Secondary School in Bloemhof on Friday, 22 August. Across the two venues, close to 2,500 Grade 9 and Grade 11 learners were hosted. Each learner was welcomed with goody bags and educational material, courtesy of the marketing teams of the three Colleges, ensuring they left with resources to guide their career decisions.

The collaborative spirit among the Colleges reflected a shared commitment to serving communities and increasing the visibility of the TVET sector. By engaging learners at such a critical stage in their schooling journey, the exhibition not only promoted TVET programmes but also positioned the Colleges as responsive institutions dedicated to shaping futures and driving skills development in the province.

IN THE FAST LANE

STUDENT SUPPORT PITSTOP

WOMEN IN PITCHING COMPETITION: EMPOWERING WOMEN, EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

By Nthabiseng Mosala - CfERI Marketing Admin Officer



Ms O Monege from OM Printing (middle) emerged as the overall winner of the Women in Pitching competition

In celebration of Women's Month, ORBIT TVET College, through its Centre for Entrepreneurship Rapid Incubator (CfERI), proudly hosted the Women in Pitching Competition — an inspiring two-part event that showcased the innovation and determination of women entrepreneurs.

The first round of the competition was held on 06 August 2025 at Central Office. A total of 21 candidates were invited to pitch their business ideas, with 16 participants presenting before a panel of judges. After a day filled with creativity, innovation, and strong entrepreneurial energy, seven outstanding candidates were shortlisted to advance to the final stage.

The judges commended the overall quality of the pitches, noting that the participants demonstrated impressive preparation and confidence. The shortlisted candidates stood out for their clear business models, market understanding, and persuasive presentation skills. While five participants withdrew due to personal or preparedness-related reasons, the event organisers acknowledged the need for pre-pitch training sessions and individual feedback in future competitions to further strengthen participation.

The final round of the Women in Business Pitching Competition took place on 14 August 2025 at the elegant Manor Hills in Rustenburg, in proud partnership with Standard Bank. The event provided a prestigious platform for the seven finalists to present their businesses before an esteemed judging panel representing SEDA, NYDA, Standard Bank, and ORBIT TVET College.

After careful deliberation, five exceptional entrepreneurs were crowned as the 2025 winners:

- 1st Place – Onalenna Monege (OM Printing)
- 2nd Place – Mirriam Mahlo (Kay Kay Aluminium Pty Ltd)
- 3rd Place – Angel Leballo (Di-Trea-Sap)
- 4th Place – Mosima Thubakgale (WeCount Solutions)
- 5th Place – Tracy Lizeka Ndude (Peaceful Living Day Care FS)

These inspiring women impressed the judges not only with innovative business concepts but also with their strong commitment to job creation, community upliftment, and sustainable development.

As part of their prize, the winning businesses will be incubated by the CfERI for a period of 18 months, receiving targeted business development support, mentorship, and growth opportunities.

The event reaffirmed ORBIT TVET College's and Standard Bank's shared commitment to empowering women entrepreneurs as key drivers of socio-economic growth. By nurturing women-led enterprises, the College continues to build inclusive, resilient communities — truly living up to the theme: "Empowering Women, Empowering Communities."



Prof G Senyolo - Delivering an inspiring presentation during the competition
Powerful pitches were delivered by all participants: Pictured left - Ms Leballo from Di-Trea-Sap, Ms Mahlo Kay from Kay Aluminium, Ms Monege from OM Printing and Ms Ndude from Peaceful Living Day Care

AFRICA CIVIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION EMPOWERS ORBIT TVET COLLEGE WITH GBVF TRAINING PROGRAMME

By Reuben Marakalala – Senior Marketing and Communication Officer



ORBIT College joined forces with Africa Civic Foundation to combat GBV

The Africa Civic Education Foundation, in partnership with ORBIT TVET College hosted a four-day Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Training Programme across all three campuses – Brits, Mankwe, and Rustenburg. The programme ran from Tuesday, 29 July to Friday, 01 August and sought to equip 1,050 students and 200 staff members with vital knowledge and practical strategies to address GBVF.

The initiative was coordinated by Ms Tebogo Legodi from the Africa Civic Education Foundation and Ms Yvonne Mdemela, Senior Student Support Officer from ORBIT TVET College. At its core, the programme confronted the harsh realities of violence and abuse, particularly against women and children, while also empowering participants to take meaningful action in their communities.

Key focus areas of the training included:

- Mental Health and Self-Awareness
- The Dangers of Alcohol and Substance Abuse
- Empowerment through Speaking Out
- Fostering Humanity and Conscious Citizenship
- Ubuntu, Morality and Moral Values
- Purposeful Intimate Relationships

What makes this civic education initiative stand out is its prevention-based and impact-driven approach. Rather than focusing only on the effects of GBVF, it addressed the root causes through interactive, inclusive, and outcome-oriented sessions that reflect the everyday challenges faced by individuals and communities.

By the end of the programme, participants not only gained deeper awareness of GBVF and its complexities but were also equipped with practical tools to actively combat it. The training also focused on strengthening mental wellness, encourages responsible citizenship, and promoted a culture of respect, humanity, and accountability. Through this initiative, ORBIT TVET College and the Africa Civic Education Foundation reaffirmed their commitment to shaping students and staff into socially conscious citizens who can lead the fight against GBVF and contribute positively to society.

COSACSA NATIONAL GAMES IN DURBAN, KWAZULU-NATAL

By Reuben Marakalala – Senior Marketing and Communication Officer



Team North West pictured at the CoSACSA National Ball Games

In October 2025, three TVET Colleges from the North West Province — ORBIT, Vuselela, and Taletso — proudly represented the province at the CoSACSA National Games held in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. The event brought together students from across the country to compete in various ball game disciplines, including soccer, netball, volleyball, basketball, and table soccer.

Extramural activities form an integral part of the student experience, offering young people opportunities to showcase their talents beyond the classroom. Many gifted athletes are discovered through such events, going on to join major teams across these and other sporting codes.

ORBIT FC coach, Pogiso Makhoye, attended the games to scout potential players for his team that was recently promoted to the Betway Premier Soccer League. "The team participated in this event because I believe students need to be given the opportunity to showcase their talent," Makhoye said. He further emphasised

that not all students excel academically, and events like these create a platform to uncover and nurture other forms of potential that may lead to successful careers in sport.

At the conclusion of the games, the North West Province delegation returned home with pride, securing five bronze medals — a testament to the dedication, teamwork, and sporting spirit of the participating students.

STUDENT SUPPORT PIVSTOP

STUDENT SUPPORT PIVSTOP

A SEASON OF EXCELLENCE FOR ORBIT COLLEGE NETBALL

By Melusi Nzimande –ORBIT College male netball player



ORBIT College female netball team

The ORBIT TVET College Netball teams have once again demonstrated their exceptional talent and determination, marking 2025 as a season of excellence filled with impressive performances and well-deserved victories across various tournaments.

The action-packed season began with the Rustenburg Netball Association (RNA) League Grand Final held on Sunday, 17 August 2025, at Grenville High School in Rustenburg. Both the male and female teams put on outstanding displays of skill and teamwork, with the male team winning gold and the female team securing silver — a proud moment for the College.

Continuing their winning momentum, three male players — Omphemetse Phege, Baleseng Baloyi, and Blessing Motlhabane — along with Head Coach Jeanette Mbola, represented ORBIT TVET College and the Bojanala District at the National Championships in Durban's Hoy Park from 1–5 September 2025. Their selection to the national stage is a testament to the high calibre of athletes nurtured through the College's sports programme. The teams also made their mark at the Bojanala District Championships on 24 September 2025, hosted at Hartebeespoort Hoërskool, where the male team earned silver, finishing second after an intense series of matches.

The season concluded with a strong showing at the CoSACSA Summer Ball Games from 5–10 October 2025, once again held at Hoy Park in Durban. Competing against teams from across all provinces, both ORBIT TVET College male and female teams displayed remarkable sportsmanship and consistency, each securing bronze medals to close off an outstanding year of achievement. These results not only highlight the College's growing reputation in competitive netball but also underscore the dedication of its players, coaches, and management. ORBIT TVET College congratulates all athletes and staff involved for their exceptional commitment and for proudly flying the College's flag high on both district and national stages.

The season concluded with a strong showing at the CoSACSA Summer Ball Games from 5–10 October 2025, once again held at Hoy Park in Durban. Competing against teams from across all provinces, both ORBIT TVET College male and female teams displayed remarkable sportsmanship and consistency, each securing bronze medals to close off an outstanding year of achievement.

These results not only highlight the College's growing reputation in competitive netball but also underscore the dedication of its players, coaches, and management. ORBIT TVET College congratulates all athletes and staff involved for their exceptional commitment and for proudly flying the College's flag high on both district and national stages.

HEDSA CONFERENCE ENHANCES DISABILITY AWARENESS AT ORBIT COLLEGE

By Tinyilko Mdemela – Student Support Coordinator



Left to right: Ms Senoamadi (Mankwe Campus), Ms Mdemela (Central Office) Ms Pyper (Rustenburg Campus) and Ms Sebogodi (Brits Campus)

Student Support Officers and the Student Support Coordinator from ORBIT TVET College attended the Higher and Further Education Disability Services Association (HEDSA) Conference held in Durban from 30 September to 4 October 2025. This marked the first time that ORBIT College officials participated in this important national event.

The conference, themed “Neurodiversity Matters: Recognising and Valuing Differences,” provided a valuable platform for institutions of higher learning to engage on issues affecting students with disabilities. HEDSA plays a pivotal role in promoting inclusion, advocacy, and support for students with disabilities across South African universities and TVET colleges.

Through collaboration, training, and policy engagement, the association strives to create equitable learning environments that recognise the diverse needs and abilities of all students.

Attendance at the conference not only deepened the College's understanding of disability inclusion but also strengthened its commitment to enhancing support services for students with special needs.

The insights gained from this engagement will inform future initiatives aimed at building a more inclusive and supportive learning environment across all ORBIT College campuses.

DISABILITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



Brits and Rustenburg Campus hosted a disability awareness session to promote awareness on different disabilities and work towards an inclusive community. Students, staff, and guests from Infinite Ability Solution gathered to raise awareness about intellectual disabilities. A student ambassador shared an inspiring testimony, highlighting inclusion and empowerment on campus

LEADERSHIP MEETS PURPOSE: PEER ACADEMIC AND WELLNESS MENTORS REFLECT

By Charlotte Sibanda - Visual Communications Administrator

The Peer Academic Leader and Wellness Peer Mentor Annual Review took place on 28 and 29 October at Hunters Rest, bringing together students, staff, and leadership to reflect on the impact of these transformative programmes. The sessions provided a meaningful platform for peer leaders to share their achievements, challenges, and personal testimonies about their role in supporting fellow students.

On 29 October, the College Principal, Mr Dika Mokoena, attended the Wellness Peer Mentor Review. He expressed his sincere gratitude to the students who have dedicated their time to serving others, noting that their commitment contributes greatly to the well-being and academic success of the broader student community. Mr Mokoena acknowledged that he had not always been fully confident in these programme initiatives; however, after listening to the powerful testimonies from peer mentors, he affirmed that the programme is a worthy investment in student development and institutional growth.

Ms Tebogo Tlhopile, Deputy Principal Academic & Student Support who was present at both sessions, encouraged students to prioritise their studies and strive to complete their qualifications. She also applauded those who continue to serve their peers, recognising that their efforts create a supportive and nurturing campus environment.

These review sessions play an essential role in strengthening the Peer Academic Leader and Wellness Peer Mentor programmes. They provide an opportunity for reflection, learning, and celebration of student leadership. By sharing experiences and evaluating progress, the institution ensures that these initiatives continue to grow, remain relevant, and effectively support student wellness and academic success. Ultimately, such gatherings reinforce the value of peer support and highlight the important contribution students make in uplifting one another.



ORBIT FC NEWS

EDITORIAL TEAM

ORBIT COLLEGE FC: WHERE EDUCATION MEETS FOOTBALL AND DREAMS RISE WITH THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE

By Matome Kganakga – General Manager

ORBIT College Football Club is more than a team — it is a symbol of transformation, resilience, and the boundless potential found in the TVET sector. Born in the halls of a vocational institution, the club stands as living proof that quality education and elite sport can thrive side by side, creating real opportunities for young South Africans to rise beyond their circumstances. At ORBIT College, the pitch becomes a classroom where discipline, team spirit and lifelong skills are shaped with every training session and every match played.

The club's rapid ascent through the divisions has inspired the North West Province. It has reignited local pride and renewed faith in the potential of home-grown talent. As Rustenburg welcomes professional football once more, ORBIT College FC carries the hopes of a province rich in culture, ambition, and youthful vitality. With each match, they are writing a new chapter in Rustenburg's sporting history, one that champions access, inclusion, and excellence through the TVET pathway.

That new chapter shone brightly on Saturday, 1 November 2025, at Olympia Park Stadium, as ORBIT College FC secured a commanding 3–1 victory over Magesi FC. In a display full of courage and flair, Monnapule Saleng, Thuso Moleleki, and Brighton Wagaba each found the back of the net, a trio of goals that electrified Rustenburg and demonstrated that the Mswenko Boys are prepared to stand tall among South Africa's elite. The win wasn't just another result; it was a robust declaration that professional football has truly made a return home.

ORBIT College FC plays a bold and expressive style of football, showcasing the determination of a team that refuses to be defined by its past. Every goal scored is a statement that development clubs can compete with the best, and each defensive victory demonstrates the strength of character built from humble beginnings. The players step onto the pitch with pride, representing their badge, their college, and every young person striving for success.

Next, the journey continues to the iconic FNB Stadium, where ORBIT College FC will face South African football giants Kaizer Chiefs on Tuesday, 4 November at 19:30 in another exciting Betway Premiership match. It will be a historic moment, standing under the bright lights of the Calabash, challenging one of the biggest clubs on the continent, and once again demonstrating that the North West dreams big.

ORBIT College FC demonstrates to the nation that greatness does not solely stem from traditional football academies. It can be found in lecture rooms, among future artisans and entrepreneurs, in the very spaces where young people develop the skills that drive the economy. The club stands tall as a shining example of possibility, a reminder that when opportunity meets determination, dreams become unstoppable.



Mariette Viljoen
Reuben Marakalala

Design & Layout

Sharlotte Sibanda

Contributors

Mariette Viljoen
Reuben Marakalala
Tebogo Tlhophile
Joe Viljoen
Moses Sebaetse
Gilbert Mafojane
Peter Matlou
Phineas Nkau
Wilheminah Molapi
Ethel Ngwato
Joseph Sengooba
Paul Tekana
Renoir Hindley
Nnane Rakhudu
Nthabiseng Mosala
Sharlotte Sibanda
Tinyiko Mdumela
Melusi Nzimande
Matome Kganakga