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HUMAN SETTLEMENTS & INFRASTRUCTURE CLUSTER

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Be a Scientist for a week

The 'Be a Scientist for a Week' programme is a University of KwaZulu-Natal initiative that's aimed at giving young people insight on what's the next step after leaving secondary education and to give the right direction on the career path. This programme is an opportunity for grades 10 to 12 learners to be exposed to subject experts and to experience different science related disciplines and careers hands-on.

The 'Be a Scientist for a Week' programme took place from the 29th of June up until the 3rd of July 2015 at the University of KwaZulu-Natal Westville Campus. On Tuesday the 30th of June 2015 eThekweni Municipality (Human Settlements, Engineering and eThekweni Transport and Trading Services Cluster) was invited to be one of the guests in the event and share words of wisdom to the youth.



The University of KwaZulu-Natal Liaison Officer Mr Vijay Rambillie welcomed the learners and explained to them what goes into choosing the right institution that's best suited for them in terms of what they would like to study towards building their future career's.



A background of the University was given, “UKZN was ranked 459th among approximately over 22 000 institutions of higher learning globally”.



The University consists of five Campuses: Edgewood campus in Pinetown is the University’s primary site for teacher education and the home of the University’s School of Education.

The Howard College Campus currently offers a full range of degree options in the fields of Science (including Geography and Environmental disciplines), Engineering, Law, Management Studies, Humanities (including Music) and Social Sciences (including Social Work). In addition, the campus offers Architecture and Nursing.

Pietermaritzburg; The campus offers a wide range of innovative academic programmes, which have been successful in responding to local and provincial needs in broad areas of Science and Agriculture, Education, Law, Human and Management Sciences. Unique to the Pietermaritzburg campus are the disciplines of Agriculture, Theology and Fine Art.

Medical School is in Durban and one could expect to spend 6 years studying in the college. To qualify to study for the degree one has to have done the subjects Maths, Physical Science, Life Science and English. The Westville campus currently offers programmes in Science, Engineering, Law, Commerce and Management, Humanities, Social Sciences and Health Sciences. As the merged institution takes shape, the Westville campus will be the home of Commerce and Management disciplines and some Health Sciences.



Mr Vijay Rambillie continued to inform the learners of the different colleges the University has to offer and what they consist of. The colleges are The College of Humanities, The College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science, The College of Health Sciences and The College of Law and Management Studies.



To conclude, Mr Rambillie discussed student funding and the options available to the learners such as Pius Langa Scholarship, Entrant Merit Scholarship and Edu Loan. He also mentioned that bursaries are available and encouraged the learners to apply if they do qualify for one.



EThekwini Municipality representative Veena Naidoo passed greetings from eThekwini Municipalities Honourable Mr Mayor James Nxumalo. Mrs Naidoo informed the learners of the shortage of engineers and how the City has put together the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) initiative to help encourage learners to study those subjects as so they could qualify to proceed to study Engineering in tertiary level and continue to be the City's future engineers. The learners were informed of eThekwini Municipality's website and were encouraged to visit the site and get more information on applying for bursaries and at a later stage they could apply for work experience programs which could better their chances in getting employment from eThekwini Municipality. Mrs Naidoo spoke of the great projects that the Municipality has been involved in (roads and bridges) and brought to light how the learners could contribute to better innovations if they chose to study towards being engineers.



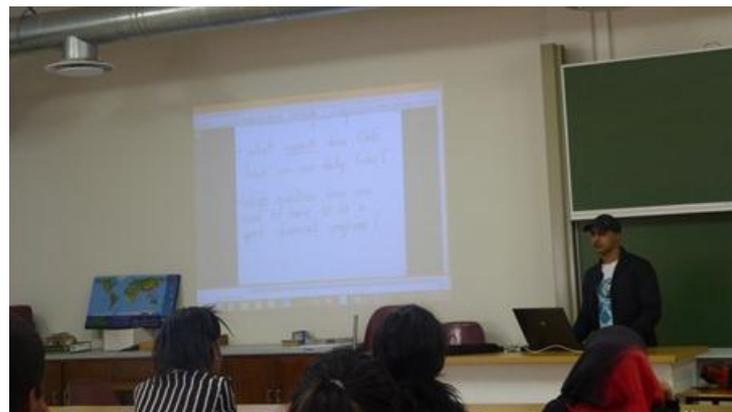
The learners were then treated to an inspiring DVD compiled by eThekweni Municipality titled 'Life of an Engineer'. Mrs Naidoo concluded the presentation by interacting with the learners as she quizzed them and gave away pencil cases to students who answered correctly to her questions.



Lecturer at the School of Chemical Engineering in the University of KwaZulu-Natal Mr Suren Moodley gave the learners a feel of how it will be like to be a student in the University by giving a short lecture.



He touched on what is engineering; what impact chemical engineering have on the average person's daily life and the qualities one needs to have to become a good chemical engineer. Mr Moodley gave insight on the field of chemical engineer and gave a lecture of certain formula's and equations to broaden the learner's knowledge and to help them solve certain chemical equations better. The learners interacted with Mr Moodley as they were given an opportunity to ask questions and do some of the calculations that were drawn out on the lecturer's presentation.



The day was a success as both the learners and the Support Services team learnt a lot from the speakers and the experiments that were performed.

