

The Circle of Excellence Awards Honouring Academic Excellence

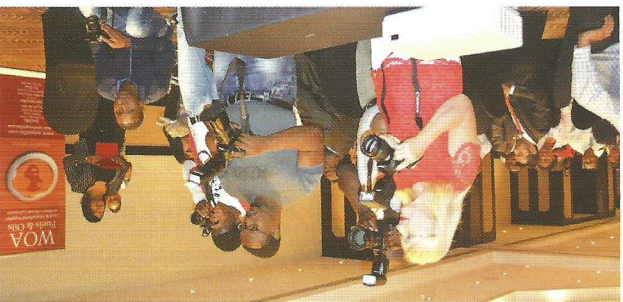
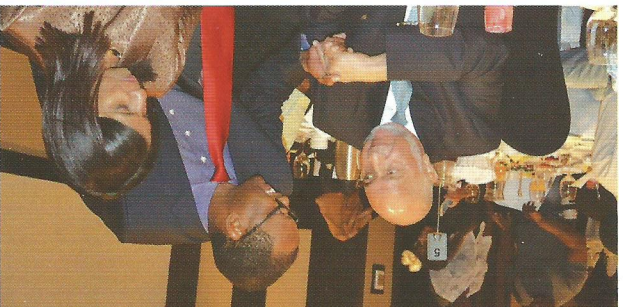
MUT recently honoured the schools that performed well in the 2014 Grade 12 results by presenting them with awards. The relationship between schools and MUT has now gone beyond that of the awards ceremony as big business has become involved in sponsorship.

One of the winning schools, Ndukwenhle High in R section of Umlazi, had their Natural Science laboratory close its doors for more than 20 years. It is now scheduled to return to active use, with state-of-the art equipment, thanks to a sponsorship from the Women of Africa (WOA), who awarded the school a mobile Physical Science kit.

"This is the beginning of a long-term partnership with Umlazi schools and WOA, EduTrade and New Africa Educational Foundation," said Nareshini Ranganathan, the CSI Manager at EduTrade. She said that part of the partnership was to give training, which is in line with CAPS, to all who needed it.

The Principal of Ndukwenhle High, Nkosinathi Shandu, said that he was grateful for the sponsorship. "This will go a long way to ensure a better quality of education for our learners. It will change our results in Mathematics and Physical Science. We are looking forward to a long-term partnership with all the sponsors."

PC Training gave the following schools white boards for their good performance in Accounting: Mlenzi High School achieved 100%; Mziwamandla High School, 94%; and Vukuzakhe High School, 92.86%. The principal of Vukuzakhe, Doris Fulela, said the



boards would encourage the learners do even better. They will use the old boards in the crèche they are thinking of establishing.

The media corps have covered the event since its inception. This year, their coverage resulted in the advertising value equivalent (AVE) of over R618 804 in print and online broadcasts. Len Mzimela, a Director at MarComms, said: "Such attention from the media testifies to MUT's contribution to, and place within, the higher education sector. This is positive attention, especially because the stories covered benefit the deserving schools and their learners."

In just three years, the Circle of Excellence Awards, a brainchild of MUT's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mashupye Kgaphola, has made such a big impact that everyone in Umlazi, including big business, takes notice.

Top Umlazi High Schools attract Top Sponsorship Awards through MUT

Sponsors for the third Circle of Excellence Awards (COE), hosted recently by MUT, outdid themselves this year in order to make recipients feel special.

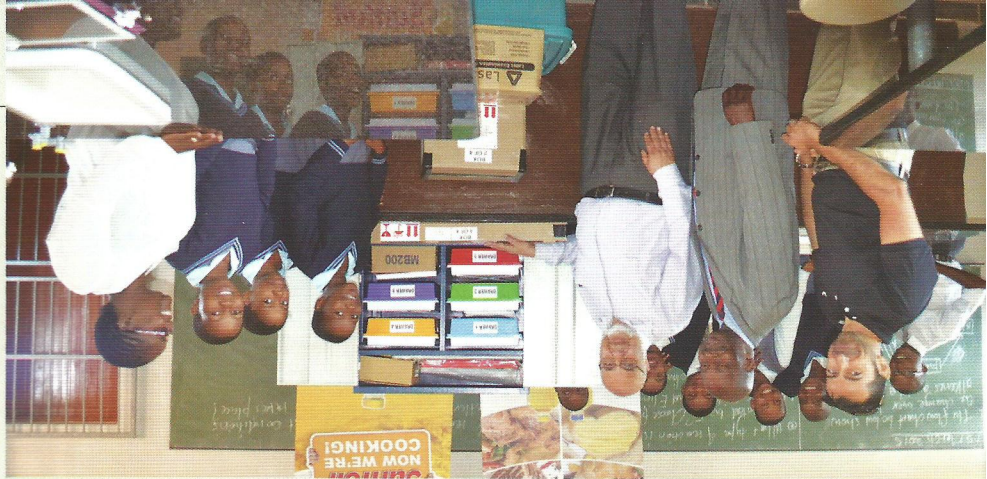


Physical Science Awards were sponsored by the Willowton Group, a family-owned Pietermaritzburg-based company famous for Sunfoil Oil and soaps. Menzi High School topped the category with a 98.85% pass rate, Ekwazini High School followed with 88%, and Vukuzakhe High School earned 84%. Each school received a mobile Physical Science kit worth R25 000. The kits can be used by learners from Grades 9 to 12.

Mr Abdul Razak Moosa, CEO of the Willowton Group, handed over sponsored prizes produced by Edutrade (a Westmead-based company that develops and produces education solutions and teaching aids) to the winning school principals. Packaged into the Willowton sponsorship was a full-day training programme for physical science educators from the winning schools.

Mathematics Awards were sponsored by Edutrade. Menzi High School again topped this category with 92.6% followed by Ndukwenhle High School at 60% and Vukuzakhe High School with 51.46%. Edutrade sponsored geometric kits to the value of R10 000.

Accounting Awards were sponsored by PC Training & Business College. Menzi High School achieved 100%, Mzizwamandla High School followed at 94% and Vukuzakhe High School earned 92.86%. The Most Improved School Award, sponsored by Women of Africa (WOA) Fuels & Oil, went to Ndukwenhle High School. The school received a mobile Physical Science kit worth R25 000. WOA is a pharmaceuticals, construction, logistics and energy supplier under the leadership of Advocate Prikumarti Hassan. A Special Award was handed to Ogwini



Science kits delivered at Menzi High School (below) and Ndukwenhle Secondary school (above)

Comprehensive High School, which attained an 85% pass rate. In granting the award, MUT recognised and rewarded the great work done by Ogwini educators in successfully handling large numbers of matric learners (489) and still attaining a high pass rate. Ogwini's sponsorship came from Laboquip, an SME that supplies pharmaceutical and laboratory products. They are based at Springfield Park. The Vice-Chancellor's Award went to Mr Sabelo Mbona, an Umlazi Senior Secondary School educator whose learner received 100% in Mathematics and topped all high schools within KwaZulu-Natal.

Speaking after the awards ceremony, Mrs Zama Sishi, MUT's Director of Stakeholder Relations, remarked that, "Corporate sponsors are critical in a project like this. We have sourced partners who share our values of pursuing academic excellence and uplifting communities. Kudos to all the sponsors and an extra kudos to the top performing schools of Umlazi".