



merSETA

MANUFACTURING, ENGINEERING
AND RELATED SERVICES SETA

The merSETA: Press Release

Attention: Business Editors; Education and Training Editors; Labour Editors

The merSETA invests R6 million in Engineering Development at CUT

For immediate release:

The merSETA has established a Chair in Engineering Development at the Central university of Technology in Bloemfontein in yet another breakthrough partnership. The partnership has led to the merSETA investing R6-million in this project for the period 2014-2016.

Envisaged areas of cooperation:

The two parties are to work together on the conceptualisation, development and support for the DHET Post-school Education and Training Policy, including:

- Providing and advancing youth access to further training and higher education institutions in the Central Region through articulation of offerings and programmes of TVET colleges into CUT;
- Advancing Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) in TVET colleges in the two provinces;
- Continuous professional development of TVET Lecturers and technical school teachers in STEM;
- Advancing STEM among female students in TVET colleges in the two provinces; and
- Supporting the national agenda of increasing the pool of graduates in scarce STEM subjects and broadening access of female students in STEM fields.



Speaking at the signing ceremony, merSETA COO Wayne Adams said CUT was a perfect choice to host the chairpersonship of Engineering Development as its focus was the Free State and Northern Cape provinces.

“We have a shared vision of what the field of engineering in education can become with the correct support and development. Partnerships, especially with Universities of Technology and TVET colleges, are key to our implementation strategy. It is also aligned to the national strategy of Government and the Department of Higher Education and Training,” Mr Adams explained.

Structuring the partnerships in such a manner that sustainability formed an integral part of the agreement was essential to all merSETA partnerships.

“This agreement goes a long way towards plugging Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) needs in this region. It will not satisfy the incredible demand by our sector for skills, but it will enhance the skills pipeline. It will ensure better developed TVET learners, better developed TVET lecturers, ensure access and seamless progression into engineering programmes at the University and ensure that more learners enter the engineering pipeline.”

Both institutions believe the project supports government’s commitment to close the skills gap in engineering sector.

The agreement between the two institutions will last till March 2016, with the possibility of a further extension.

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