CAREER EXPO REPORT 2013

By

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Date of submission: 2013

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Middelburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Steve Tshwete Municipality (STLM) and the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) did an investment climate study BIC of the area in 2008.

This study highlighted the skills shortage in the local municipal area. The above contributed to the decision in 2009 to host a local career expo to provide opportunity to both learner and corporate company.

The career expo creates a platform to learner to seek recruitment opportunities, bursaries and vacancies.

For the corporate company it provides a place where thousands of learners can be reached and corporate company’s vacancies, bursaries and learnership can be accessed. Also the corporate company distributes information on what skills, subjects etc. is needed if you want to work with a certain company or certain career.

The tertiary institutions also benefit from the career expo and the learner can also find information on closing dates, subjects and other criteria needed to be enrolled with such an institution.

The event was so successful in the last 5 years that it is now an annual event in the Department of Education’s (DOE) calendar.

The partnership between MCCI, DOE and STLM together created a strong relationship and ensured a powerful career expo 2013.

The event took place at the Middelburg Banquet Hall on the 30 + 31 January 2013. The reason for the early schedule is to allow learners to complete applications in advance and be in time for bursary and learnership applications.
It is a successful way of exposing the learners in the municipal area to local career opportunities. The main outcome was to address the local demand and the supply on skills development which are not balanced. Awareness needs to be created amongst learners on what opportunities this area contains and needs.

1.1 WHO PARTICIPATED

1.1.1 Exhibitors

The exhibitors such as local businesses, government departments and training colleges were invited to participate. All the exhibitors explained the opportunities to the scholars that existed within their different industries. The industry career paths were also explained to the learners. The following exhibitors participated (listed in alphabetical order):

- ABSA
- African Dynamics
- Anglo American
- Anti-Drug - SAPS
- Columbus Stainless (Pty) Ltd Stainless (Pty) Ltd
- Department of Education – DOE
- Eskom
- Middelburg Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Association – MTPA
- Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust - MRTT
- National Youth Development Agency - NYDA
- Nkangala FET College
- Standard Bank
- Steve Tshwete Local Municipality – STLM
- Tshwane University of Technology
- Xstrata Coal
1.1.2 **Schools**

24 schools participated and attended the Career expo with a lot of expectations and the overall feedback was satisfying. The teacher’s were impressed and many said that it was the first time for them to actually professionally have their learners assessed. The learners appreciate this opportunity provided to them.

- Alex Benjamin Senior Phase School
- Bankfontein Combined School
- Eastdene Combined School
- Ekwazini Secondary School
- Hendrina Combined School
- Hoërskool Kanonkop – did not attend
- Hoërskool Tegnies
- Imhlabala Combined School
- Kwazamokuhle Secondary School
- L.D. Moetanalo Secondary School
- Makhathini Primary School
- Maziya Combined School
- Middelburg Combined School
- Middelburg Muslim School
- Mkhulu Combined School
- MMS Combined School
- Mphanama Secondary School
- Phumelela Secondary School
- Poolzee Combined School
- Sofunda Secondary School
- Sozama Secondary School
- Steelcrest High School
- Tshwenyane Combined School
- Tsiki Naledi Secondary School

All participating schools received a career goodie bag.
1.1.3 Public
Citizens from the local community also walked through the exhibition hall and supported this event.

1.2 ASSESSMENT CENTRE
Columbus Stainless held informative sessions for Gr 12 learners. This initiative prepared them for writing a CV and covering letter, the processes to expect as well as how to present themselves during interviews. It included more information involved in applying for work, and information on bursary applications and learnership opportunities that are available to them.

The Gr 9 learners gathered in the conference area of the Banquet Hall to do psychometric tests to identify what subject choices will be suitable for their future.

Various science experiments were also conducted during the expo to motivate learners to choose Mathematics and Science as future subjects. The learners thoroughly enjoyed these experiments and displayed great interest in and enthusiasm for, math and science.

2 SUCCESSES
The purpose of the expo was to motivate the learners to become focused on their future, and to choose subjects in accordance with their career choices. The expo was a great platform to show learners that there is hope to reach their dreams, and that through hard work they can further themselves to one day become a successful member of the community.

The key outcomes:

- Each learner was given brief formal career guidance.
- Assessments gave learner more of an idea what to discuss with exhibitors.
- Schools and teachers were provided with much needed resources to be able to provide assistance to learners with career choices.
- 2500 Grade 9 assessments were done in the 2 days.
• Over 3500 learners visited the expo
• Career guidance sessions for grade 12 learners; on how to prepare for a job interview, prepare a CV and what do corporate companies look for.
• Press releases – Opportunity Magazine, Mpumalanga Beeld, Middelburg Observer and Herald

3 THANK YOU’S

MCCI and STLM would like to thank all the exhibitors for their contribution and their enthusiasm around this event.

The participating schools who gave their learners the opportunity to participate in the Career expo 2013.

Thank you to STLM for their partnership and commitment to this project.

Thank you to Columbus Stainless (Pty) Ltd Stainless – sponsorship of time and qualified professionals

Thank you to Anglo American for their sponsorship and participation.

Thank you to Safika Oosthuizen for their sponsorship of additional transport for this project.

MCCI and STLM thank all participants (Exhibitors) as their involvement ensured the success of the Career expo 2013.

Thank you to all facilitators, coordinators and organizers without you this event would not have been possible.
4 CONCLUSION

Participation and enthusiasm of learners, teachers and exhibitors made the career expo the celebrated success.

Each participating schools did each receive a career “goodie bag”. The career “goodie bag” included a 800 page career directory discussing each career in detail, tertiary institution call directory, job hunting skills directory as well as a financial aid directory. The schools can use this to assist learners at school with career guidance.

MCCI and STLM thank all participants and exhibitors as their involvement, support and presence ensured the success of the Career expo 2013.