

# ArcelorMittal Science Centre bears its first fruit

## Adopt-a-student 2012 launch

The Engineering & Technical Association (ETA) once again took one of their mission statements to offer assistance in work-related issues affecting candidate engineers, technicians and learner technicians a step further by launching their 2012 Adopt-a-Student programme.

### Portia Kheswa

This programme offers assistance with learning issues affecting some of the first year students at Vaal University of Technology (VUT) and is aimed at supporting the government's initiative of addressing South Africa's shortage of engineering skills and implementing government's job creation plan.

For 2012, ArcelorMittal is sponsoring 15 students studying in various engineering disciplines. All learners in the programme are part of the Sebokeng Science Centre and are currently enrolled at Vaal University of Technology. Since the inception of this programme in 2009, 77 bursars have benefitted. At the moment, we have two learner technicians from this programme working for Vanderbijlpark Works.

The ETA initially launched the Adopt-A-Student programme in 2010. The purpose of this programme is to assist first year students of with the transition from high school studying methods to those viable for

tertiary learning. The ETA members volunteer their time and services every Friday to assist the learners with their learning challenges where possible.

Neo Hutiri, chairperson of the ETA, explained how enthusiastic the ETA is about investing in tomorrow's leaders, and how they will be there in making the learners' lives easier, through them working hard and meeting the ETA members half way. He says "The ETA is committed in its aim for a 100% pass rate outcome from all the first year students."

Maggie Mopedi, Manager Corporate Responsibility for ArcelorMittal South Africa says, "You are granted an all-inclusive ticket that has a package that will open all doors for you. Read the terms and conditions carefully so that you do not miss out on your opportunity. Make sure that your time is well spent in reaching your ultimate goal. You have all the potential to be what you want to be with this prospect, so work hard. You have no reason to fail given the support assistance from



Shirley Moloi, Candidate Technician, Vanderbijlpark Works

### The success story of Shirley Moloi

ETA."

Shirley Moloi (20), who joined the company as a bursar at the Vaal University of Technology has just completed her studies in Chemical Engineering. Now working as a Learner Technician at Vanderbijlpark Works, Shirley tells us her heartwarming success story.

"I was born, bred and buttered in Sebokeng Zone 11, where I was raised by my grandparents and a single mother that passed on when I was 12 years old. Life was never easy having to go through high school without both parents, as well as experiencing all the stages of teenagehood without proper parental guidance; I had so much resentment. Family dynamics had to alter because at that point, my grandparents had to strictly raise me by themselves. With that said, I really commend them for a job well done".

While Shirley was in high school, she explored a number of extra-mural activities and found that her passion lay with public speaking and debating. At that moment, she knew that she had found something that she was made for, and was exceptional at it. Through her passion, she developed a strong like for communication and a future for herself as communicator.

Whilst doing her grade 10 and performing well in all her subjects, Shirley was approached by the ArcelorMittal Science Centre in Sebokeng, in conjunction with the Department of Education as one of the top 40 learners in District 8, Sebokeng. She was told that she would be granted a grand opportunity to attend classes at the Centre and to use the mobile science laboratory to support her daily lessons with practical experiments. Because of this encouragement, Shirley developed a keen interest in Chemistry and Human Sciences; although, she was still interested in studying Communications.

After completing her matric with four distinctions, Shirley was offered another opportunity by ArcelorMittal to study towards engineering diploma. She excelled in and finished her studies in record time. Shirley admits that it was not easy, but hard work and willpower paid off. She emphasizes that the Science Centre helped a lot in terms of making life easier for her with her studies. She attended monthly "meet ups" with the Science Centre staff who looked after her well-being. With that help, Shirley managed to

pass all her subjects. In addition, ETA, a volunteer group formed by ArcelorMittal Candidate Engineers in Training, which assist in mentoring and tutoring of bursary learners, also aided her with her studies.

Shirley stresses the fact that her grandmother has always been education-orientated and was one of the people that pushed her in the right direction. With the support she got from her grandmother, Shirley quickly learned that she did not want to fall prey to some of the wrong choices that most of the youth of Sebokeng make. She knew that she was definitely different from the rest. "Yes I grew up in Sebokeng Zone 11, but it does not mean that I have to be that, I refuse to be the perfect average". Amongst other driving forces Shirley had, was the fact that she did not want to live a "disadvantaged" life forever and wanted to set a trend for her younger cousins. Shirley always wanted to give her grandmother the give of completing her studies and now she is pleased to present her with that gift.

Because of this life changing opportunity that ArcelorMittal has granted her, Shirley feels the need to also do her bit for her community. She does motivational speaking in township schools and also provides mentorship for students at the Vaal University of Technology as she understands their situation better. In her spare time, Shirley also goes to her former high school to aid wherever help is needed.

"I am very content and motivated to be here. I did not dream in a million years that I would be working at ArcelorMittal South Africa, at the age of 20. I cannot wait to prove people wrong: I am not just a pretty face. I would love to showcase my capabilities and add value to the success of this Company. I am proud of woman like Maggie Mopedi and Charlotte Mthimkulu who inspired me to want to be more and do more.

ArcelorMittal's involvement in education is extensive with Science Centres in Sebokeng, Saldanha and Newcastle. The company provides bursaries for engineering and science students and training of artisans. The Science Centres serve as a centre of excellence, teaching Science, Mathematics and English to give students an opportunity to become well-rounded.

Read the success story of Lesego Kobue in the May edition of 1 Magazine

### > Corporate responsibility

## Bringing you home safely

The traffic congestion that normally builds up during peak times at the corner of Delfos Road and the Golden Highway will now be a thing of the past.

### Portia Kheswa

ArcelorMittal South Africa recently demonstrated its commitment to driving sustainable development in the communities in which it operates, by ensuring safety for its employees and all persons using the dangerous Delfos Boulevard and R57 intersection in Vanderbijlpark.

On Thursday, 12 April, Councillor Greta Hlongwane, Executive Mayor of Emfuleni Municipality and Maggie Mopedi, Manager, Corporate Responsibility, ArcelorMittal South Africa officially opened the newly erected traffic lights at the busy intersection.

The project to erect the traffic lights is a joint venture between ArcelorMittal South Africa and the Emfuleni Municipality. The Golden Highway is a major arterial route from Gauteng to the Free State and as such experiences heavy traffic flows of both private and commercial vehicles between the two provinces.

During the past year alone, this intersection has 48 experienced accidents. This comes down to an average of four accidents a month or one accident per week. These



Councillor Greta Hlongwane (Executive Mayor, Emfuleni Municipality) and Maggie Mopedi (Manager, Corporate Responsibility, ArcelorMittal South Africa) cutting the ribbon with councillors Sello Pitso (MMC: Public Transport, Roads and Public Works) and NR Thulo (MMC: Infrastructure, Electricity, Water and Sanitation) looking on.

included one fatality, six serious injuries, 12 minor injuries and 36 incidents of damage to vehicles or property.

Maggie Mopedi, Manager, Corporate Responsibility at ArcelorMittal South Africa says:

"The intersection has been a scene of horrific accidents, some involving the company's employees and members of the community." We trust that the traffic light will help the Emfuleni Municipality contain vehicular

accidents and that pedestrian and motorists will be able to negotiate the intersection safely."

The Engineering and Technical Association (ETA):  
The objective of the Association is to form a body for engineers and technicians/technologists to:

- Create a vehicle for technical (and business related) information sharing.
- Promote engineering and technical discipline within the company.
- Offer general assistance with work related problems.