



5th November



RHODES UNIVERSITY

Where leaders learn

MESSAGE FROM THE VC

Hearty congratulations to all those who contributed to the various Community Engagement activities in 2022. Whether you have received an award or not, your contribution has made a positive difference in the lives of others. I hope that you have also grown and developed as you have served others. I also hope that you have found joy and fulfilment in being of service to others and that you have developed a greater appreciation of what it means to be fully human.



I wish to thank our community partners who have allowed our staff and students to be part of their own initiatives and projects to respond to the needs of our community. It is in working together that we can create a better, inclusive and sustainable future for our community.

I commend and applaud the Division of Community Engagement - the Director and Staff- for the professional manner in which they continue to drive our University's community engagement goals and objectives.

Once more, congratulations on the stellar achievements of 2022.

ANNUAL 2022 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARDS WELCOME

The Highlight of the Rhodes University Community Engagement calendar is the Annual Awards held in October each year. These prestigious awards are a way of celebrating outstanding contribution made by our students in our community and acknowledging the time dedicated to building sustainable community-university partnerships.



As we leave the most difficult years behind us, and a global pandemic which threatened our lives beyond measure – a pandemic which has been felt the world over, we emerge wiser, more grateful and appreciative of one another. Community engagement confirmed its critical importance and rightful place in the education sector. Our Community Engagement Division stood resolute in ensuring that community engagement work continued and the impact of COVID-19 was bearable. We celebrate many of you here tonight, for having stepped up to serve with compassion and courage during these difficult times.

This Annual Awards evening is held each year to honour and pay tribute to Rhodes University students who in their own very special ways have proven their leadership and have worked hand-in-hand with community partners to ensure better lives for those who are less fortunate. This is a special time in which we celebrate the spirit of volunteerism. That spirit of giving selflessly of oneself, one's talent, skills and knowledge without expecting any reward.

I congratulate all the winners and runners up and thank you for being outstanding ambassadors of Rhodes University and its community engagement efforts. I also wish to thank the community partners for hosting student volunteers and allowing their facilities to be used as spaces for learning. It is my hope that the student volunteer programmes have inculcated in you the values and attitudes that will make you genuine leaders of our people.

I hope you have a wonderful evening, as we collectively celebrate the efforts and great work done by our students and community partner organisations to remake and reshape our society and world.

PROGRAMME

18h00

Welcome address

Prof. Mabokang Monnapula-Mapasela (DVC: Academic & Student Affairs)

18h10

Highlights & Summary of 2021

Di Hornby (Director: Community Engagement)

18h15

Musical Interlude

Community Partner & Student leader names on screen

18h20

Community Partner of the Year Award

18h25

Hall of the Year Award

18h35

Sports Club and Society of the Year

18h40

Student Researcher of the Year Award

18h50

Gold Award for Excellence in Community Engagement

19h00

Student Volunteer of the Year Award

19h15

Thank you and closing of ceremony

Master of Ceremonies:

Sakhe Ntlabezo

CERTIFICATE AWARDEES

9/10THS STUDENT LEADERS

Chidinma Iheanetu
Daniel Roodt
Dean Makuya
Jodi-Anne Rooi
Lian May
Lihle Manene
Nigel Machiha
Sibulele Dalindyebo
Sibulele Teyi
Sovash Chetty
Tiisetso Neluheni
Tshepang Nkosi
Wellodene Swartbooi
Zandile Gcumisa

NINE TENTHS MENTORS

Abenathi Nqweniso
Amahle Sifumba
Anam Baba
Anathi Mgijima
Avumile Yeko
Avuyile Mthana
Awonke Conini
Axolile Hina
Ayafika Mthi
Busisiwe Luvuno
Chidinma Iheanetu
Chido Chatikobo
Chumani Nelo

Daniel Roodt
Dean Makuya
Goodwin Heber
Hlumani Mcuba
Inga Mpengesi
Jodi-Anne Rooi
Kabelo Madibana
Katlheho Monye
Kholofelo Koko
Kwakhanya Jako
Lerato Khumalo
Lian May
Lihle Manene
Lihle Ngcawe
Likhonithemba Misselo
Linathi Ndubela
Lindani Sifanele
Liyema Kwenxe
Liyema Ndzipo
Llucia Dube
Luzukiso Kom
Markan Nkhwazi
Matifadza Muza
Matimu Shivambu
Matshidiso Makae
Mpumelelo Kelemana
Nakhane Simani
Nigel Machiha
Njabulo Shabalala
Palesa Ntshanga

CERTIFICATE AWARDEES

Palesa Panyane
Qhawekazi Cabadiya
Rachel Chimone
Regomoditswe Dikobe
Ripfumelo Chauke
Ruponeso Nyakurimwa
Ruth Manyeche
Sachin Smith
Samkelisiwe Mthombeni
Samnkeliwiwe Vuso
Sibulele Dalindyabo
Sibulele Ngamntwini
Sibulele Teyi
Simamkele Tshete
Sinokuhle Mzondo
Siphelele Mqambayi
Siphesihle Mtongana
Siphokazi Govuza
Siphosethu Sikwana
Sisikelelwe Sandi
Sisipho Tshazibana
Sivenathi Duma
Sivenathi Zweni
Sovash Chetty
Thabo Shongwe
Thando Sigwili
Thapelo Nyedimane
Thobani Ndebele
Tiisetso Neluheni
Timothy Christian
Tlogang Mosupye

Tshepang Nkosi
Tshepo Letsoela
Vukosi Nyathi
Wanda Fusa
Wellodene Swartbooi
Zandile Gcumisa
Zanoxolo Nyangiwe
Zikhona Ntomobolwaba
Ziphezihle Nkani

BUDDINGQ: LITERACY

ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP

Amanda Mgaba
Takudzwa Makuwa
Hlela Dayimani
Lilitha Boco
Llucia Dube
Melody Chauke
Monica Lerato Mathebula
Ntombenhle Nothando Namba
Palesa Ntshanga
Panashe Mildred Maneya
Simthandile Qinsile
Tiisetso Kwanda Nhlapo
Uthandile Samela
Vanessa Ncube
Yonga Sikwebu
Sophy Emsley
Jade Lindoor
Dumazile Mokoena
Busiswa Rasonti

CERTIFICATE AWARDEES

BUDDINGQ STUDENT LEADERS

Amanda Mgaba
Takudzwa Makuwa
Hlela Dayimani
Lilitha Boco
Llucia Dube
Melody Chauke
Monica Lerato Mathebula
Ntombenhle Nothando Namba
Palesa Ntshanga
Panashe Mildred Maneya
Simthandile Qinsile
Tiisetso Kwanda Nhlapo
Uthandile Samela
Vanessa Ncube
Yonga Sikwebu
Sophy Emsley

BUDDINGQ: LITERACY

FUNDAMENTALS & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Pearl Dladla
Anita Mtyobile
Ayanda Mpanza
Ayesha Ebrahim Vahed
Azania Booï
Barbara Huber
Boitumelo Thoo
Bongiwe Ngwenya
Bonokuhle Khumalo

Bulelwa Matiwane
Busiswa Rasonti
Camilla James
Cassandra Lyons
Chelsey van Heerden
Chido Kimberley Chatikobo
Christine Ngoie
Emily Platt
Gabriella Jackson
Geinile Makhoyane
Goldah Nkanyani
Hope Legodi
Jemaine Chettiar
Khanya Dungaa
Kopano Lesese
Kutloano Masisi
Larissa Schmidiger
Lelethu Hlela
Leonora Esbend
Lerato Ndlovu
Lilitha Hole
Linamandla Nojoyi
Lungelo Langa
Lwando Gasa
Mari-Jeanne Steenberg
Maria Vittoria Conti
Matimu Shivambu
Mihle Ndlodaka
Mike Masingi
Mpho Seleka

CERTIFICATE AWARDEES

Mukelisiwe Kunene
Nokulunga Masia
Nonhlanhla Mhlongo
Nonjabulo Gumede
Ntombi Aaron
Phemelo London
Ripfumelo Chauke
Ruvarashe Mpofo
Sanelisiwe Diko
Sibulele Ngamntwini
Silja Klopfenstein
Siphesihle Mtongana
Siphesihle Mtongana
Sipho Fani
Vanessa Melato
Vanya Blignaut
Vukheta Chabane
Vuyokazi Ngaleka
Vuyolwethu Maweni
Wendy Baloyi
Yanelisa Fundzo
Yolanda Hale
Zanele Meth

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT READING CLUB ORIENTATION (CERCO) SHORT COURSE

Busisiwe Sinazo Chimaliro
Karabo Conjwa
Maletapata Moshoeshoe
Brendan Williams
Liyema Velapi
Esona Maduma

VULINDLELA CHAMPIONS

*Awarded to individuals who went above the
call of duty to provide education support in the
Vulindlela programme.*

Njabulo Dlamini
Siyanda Mjoli
Mamello Mashanye
Nduduzo Mvundla
Thandeka Senaoane
Kinnie Plaitjies
Perserverance Sanbo
Francis Atta-Agyeman
Lungelo Khoza
Phuti Makgabo
Unarine Mugogovhali
Senzokuhle Nqabeni
Fezeka Zulu
Aphelele Mjobo

CERTIFICATE AWARDEES

ECP STUDENT LEADERS

Njabulo Dlamini
Namhla Tukulu
Precious Maotoane
Azealea Harker
Melody Chauke
Nqobani Dabengwa
Bulelwa Busakwe
Suphile Majodina
Precious Masoni
Tshepo Letsoela
Simphele Malinga
Deborah Akintola
Grace Ndlovu
Sacree Kabeya
Takudzwa Mugiya
Koketso Bridget Molopyane
Kristen Burgess

CE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

SHORT COURSE

Akule Ndzobongo
Alizwa Hafe
Amahle Dlamini
Amahle Mgobhozi
Anam Mphongwana
Anazo Ginya
Andisiwe Mama
Anelisa Mnyamana
Anita Nomta
Asiphesona Wonqwelo

Athini Solontsi
Ayathandwa Tsili
Baatseba Chaba
Baphethuthando Masiso
Bongiwe Mahlangu
Bulelwa Busakwe
Celokuhle Ngwenya
Chido Chatikobo
Colline Mushike
Crystal Felix
Dalreece Rana
Dipalesa Letuka
Emma Marwa
Esona Maduma
Fezeka Zulu
Geneva Cloete
Gundo Sadiki
Imkhitha Macanda
Innocent Muchato
Jordyn Blouw
Kamvalethu Boo
Kamvalethu Ntsomi
Karabo Conjwa
Karabo Mokopanela
Khanyi Nonyane
Khonaye Ludusu
Khulekani Mpontshane
Kinnie Plaatjies
Kudzai Rejoice Mawere
Lazarus Kgageng
Lesego Mokalapa

CERTIFICATE AWARDEES

Lethukuthula Madlala

Lillian M Xulu

Lindani Sifanele

Lisakhanya Ngxongo

Liyema Velaphi

Lizzy Ngele

Lukho Ntsuku

Lupumlo Ngcukana

Lutho Ntobongwana

Lwazisile Mhlambi

Macy Lethabo Maimela

Malebo Mabilu

Mamelo Mashanye

Manqoba Nkonyane

Masixole Mcoki

Mbalentle Gova

Michele Maluleke

Mokoto Mathekga

Mphika Malapane

Mpho Molekwa

Mphumelelo Sikhosana

Muhluri Mthombeni

Muvhango Munzhelele

Nandi Viljoen

Nelisiwe Masinga

Nizole Qete

Noluchulumanco Layiti

Nompelo Sineke

Nomvelo Phemelo Shusha

Nonhlanhla Khosa

Nthabiseng Mokonyane

Nthabiseng Sikwane

Ntokoto Hlungwane

Ntsebeng Motaung

Ntsika Tyopo

Olwethu Maaotla

Palesa Hlekwayo

Palesa Mkhulisi

Phumelele Nqobile Nene

Phuti Makgabo

PraiseGod Ngomane

Reananetse Nkuru

Refiloe Morafo

Regomoditswe Dikobe

Relebohile Mohapi

Rethabile Botsane

Rinae Galani

Samkele Skhosana

Sandisiwe Mjoli

Sarah Volker

Senzokuhle Nqabeni

Serena Pyle

Shamila Rose Mthembu

Shamiso Nyemba

Simbiso Chuma

Sphiwe Hlophe

Siphesande Bobo

Siphiwe Mavhungu

Sithabile Chili

Sivenathi Duma

Siyanda Mjoli

Siyolise Konkwane

CERTIFICATE AWARDEES

Sizwe Kubhayi
Sonti Nelani
Tamia Reddy
Thandeka Gumedu
Thandeka Senaoane
Thando Manciya
Thokozile Tshabalala
Tianna Taylor
Vuyolwethu Ndungane
Xolisa Mxube
Yabanathi Ntlali
Yoliswa Thwala
Yonela Ntweka
Zamokuhl Xongo
Zenande Booie
Zibuyile Majozi

TUTOR CERTIFICATES

Faith Mbale
Fezeka Zulu
Kinnie Plaatjies
Mamello Mashanye
Mihlali Zweni
Mphika Malapane
Nandi Viljoen
Nthabiseng Sikwane
Ntsebung Motaung
Phatsimo Ramatsabane
Phuti Makgabo
Regomoditse Dikobe
Senzokuhle Nqabeni

Sihle Clay
Siyanda Mjoli
Thandeka Senaoane
Tianna Emma Taylor
Tshepo Letsoela
Deborah Akintola

STUDENT SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

SHORT COURSE

Azalea Harker
Bridget Molopyane
Buhlebenkosi Sondiyazi
Deborah Akintola
Grace Ndlovu
Kristen Burgess
Lazarus Kgageng
Lesego Monyai
Lian May
Ludzi Monyatsiwa
Matimu Shivambu
Melody Chauke
Mnotho Ngonyama
Musa Mhlongo
Namhla Tukulu
Nduduzo Mvundla
Nqobani Dabengwa
Oyama Mzayidume
Palesa Phalatse
Perryn Richardson
Phatsimo Ramatsabana
Precious Maotoane
Sacree Kabeya

CERTIFICATE AWARDEES

Simphiwe Malinga

Siphosihle Clay

Suphile Majodina

Takudzwa Mugiya

Tshepo Letsoela

Valentine Rampora

Zinhle Madolo

VOLUNTEER MANAGERS

Nine Tenths

Khutliso Daniels Secondary School

Teacher Coordinator: Ms Mayalo

Mary Waters High School

Teacher Coordinator: Ms Duiker

Nombulelo Secondary School

Teacher Coordinator: Mr Nayika

Ntsika Senior Secondary School

Teacher Coordinator: Ms Nomavuka

S@M

Hall: Allan Webb Hall

Luzuko Preschool

Volunteer Manager: Thandeka Sandi

Hall: Courtney-Latimer Hall

Boy Boy Mginywa Preschool

Volunteer Manager: Nondumiso Quza

Hall: Desmond Tutu Hall

Rhodes Day Care Centre

Volunteer Manager: Essie Davis

Hall: Drostdy Hall

Noncedo Preschool

Volunteer Manager: Lelethu Sandi

Hall: Founders Hall

Pumpkin Patch Day Care Centre

Volunteer Manager: Busisiwe Boo

Hall: Hobson Hall

Lithalethu Preschool

Volunteer Manager: Luleka Che

Hall: Hugh Masekela Hall

Cozy Nest ECD Centre

Volunteer Manager: Berenise Roberts

Hall: Kimberley Hall

Care Hugs ECD Centre

Volunteer Manager: Erica Plaatjie

Hall: Lilian Ngoyi Hall

Nompumelelo Preschool

Volunteer Manager: Zukiswa Baba

Hall: Miriam Makeba Hall

Happy Kids ECD Centre

Volunteer Manager: Christelle Marthinus

Hall: Nelson Mandela Hall

CM Vellem Primary School

Volunteer Manager: Nompumelelo Frans

Hall: Oppidan Hall

CSD Toy Library

Volunteer Manager: Noluthando Shelle

Hall: Solomon Mahlangu Hall

Nokwandile Day Care Centre

Volunteer Manager: Nandipha Nurse

Hall: St. Mary Hall

Phaphani Preschool

Volunteer Manager: Mfundo Balakisi

CERTIFICATE AWARDEES

Engaged citizenship programme

Access Music Project

Thozamile Ngeju

Awarenet

Zintle Vambe

Children of the Soil

Nosi Ngqwala

GADRA Education

Babsy Makombe

Home of Joy

Ntosh Ngcangca

Ikamva Youth

Mpumi Makinana

Inkululeko

Zuko Gqadavama

Joza Reading and Chess Club

Mpumi Frans

Khanya Science and Mathematics Club

Joyce Sewry

Sibanye Special Day Care Centre

Veliswa Mdaka and Nomalungisa Maluni

St Mary's DCC

Nosipho Moyikwa and Brandon Williams

Social Innovation Hub

Thandiwe Matyobeni

Sophumelela Youth Development

Sophumelela Ketelo

Lebone Centre

Cathy Gush and Adre de Jongh

BuddingQ

CM Vellem Health Promoting School:

Siphokazi Mafumana, Yandisa Nyumka

Good Shepherd Primary School:

Phelia Kramm

Samuel Ntsiko Primary School:

Nomathemba Lukwe, Noma Zinia

NV Cewu Public Primary School:

Lulama Nxopo, Veliswa Williams

Rhodes Preschool:

Annidene Davis

Seventh Day Adventist Primary School:

Nomava Mbonda

Ntaba Maria Primary School:

Ms Lotter, Ms Jongile

Makana Primary School:

Ms Bangisa

AWARD CITATIONS

COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR

Khanya Maths and Science Club

The Khanya Maths and Science Club involves the tutoring of Maths and Science to Grade 8 and 9 learners. The Club celebrated its 22nd birthday this year and was established by Mrs. Joyce Sewry in 2000. In partnership with GADRA Education, Rhodes staff members and student volunteers (tutors) within the Science Faculty, the Club aims to cultivate interest in Mathematics and Science.

The Covid pandemic has wreaked havoc on learners educational achievement. Yet the Club were proactive in all their engagements with the learners and prepared learning resources to support learners as well as doing Maths tutoring remotely (via WhatsApp and Moya App) in 2021. This year, the number of learners who joined the programme doubled from 40 in 2021, to 80 in 2022. This Club



truly embodies the transformative and development community engagement and values and has shown that through the love of science, community-university partnerships can collaboratively and collectively contribute to the development of maths and science abilities of learners in Makhanda.

Khutliso Daniel Secondary School

Despite the fact that the partnership between Khutliso Daniels and RUCS is still relatively new, Khutliso Daniels has already established itself as a leader in community engagement. This is attributable to its strong leadership and effective social change approach, resulting in good trajectory even throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Their results indicate an upward trend in both quantity and, more importantly, quality, particularly in their math and science subjects improving their Bachelor Passes tenfold in their first year of partnership.

AWARD CITATIONS

The school has enthusiastically embraced educational projects, leading to partnerships with other community-based organizations such as Sophumelela Youth Development Program, Ikamva Youth,



Siyanqoba Program, Khanya Maths and Science, OLICO Maths program and Access Music Project (AMP).

Their vision and commitment to seeing learners thrive and reach their potential is noticeable in these commitments.

In the nomination, one parent writes “As parents we have seen through maximum participation, motivation

and interest shown by our children; the principles of good community engagement practises [show] results. This has promoted and has brought about the confidence and the meaningfulness of the existence of Rhodes University higher learning institution, where parents of these learners are also benefiting indirectly as such opportunities opened to their children, were not as available as during the present era of their time”. Congratulations Khutliso Daniels.

Lebone Centre

The Lebone Centre are fervent literacy advocates. This year they have been a prolific and



reliable community collaborator. In the engaged citizenship arena they implement Nal’ibali Reading Clubs & WordWorks’ Ready, Steady, Read and Write intervention with RU volunteers providing foundation phase learners individual literacy support on a weekly basis. As well as collaborating with the Centre for Social Development (CSD) to

AWARD CITATIONS

implement Early Childhood Development (ECD) programmes such as the Mikhulu Book-Sharing initiative as well as with the Ubunye Foundation implementing play-based learning, and is part of the VC's Education Initiative for ECD Centres of Excellence. Their training is of high quality and their staff are attentive and passionate. They have also been instrumental in the Community Engaged Learning space, training 60 B.Ed 2nd year students to implement literacy support in local schools and partnering with the Linguistics Department and Journalism 4th Year Writing students too. Finally, they have elevated their understanding for Community-Based Participatory Research, by engaging in RUC's newly developed course on engaged research, contributing to the Rhodes IDP and collaborating with the RU Psychology Department to research the effectiveness of the Centre's First 1000 Days programme for mothers and babies. Congratulations to the Lebone Centre.

HALL OF THEY YEAR

Drostdy Hall

Drostdy Hall claimed their community engagement space this year together with their community partner, Noncedo Preschool. The Community Engagement Representatives showed commitment and consistency throughout the year. Their main goal for the year was to support individualised learning at their community partner school- needless to



say, Noncedo had more than extra hands every week as the Drostdy Hall students would fill up the bus heading to Noncedo Preschool to assist with the teaching and learning. Their weekly visits definitely made their partnership stronger and more sustainable - exactly what the Siyakhana@Makhanda Programme aims to do.

The worked relentlessly to embed the partnership and encourage student participation which also led to had a Fun Day at Rhodes University to celebrate spring with their 'other teachers'

AWARD CITATIONS

(the student volunteers). As well as cultivating a vegetable garden in pursuit of ensuring food security for the school. And lastly, concluding their very busy year Drostdy Hall and Noncedo Preschool also revamped the classrooms by painting and redecorating, making it more fun for the children and more organised for the teachers. Congratulations, Drostdy Hall.

Oppidan Hall

Given its size, creating awareness and getting students to attend Community Engagement activities has been a significant challenge for the hall in the past. However, this year the CE Rep (Siviwe Gaika) and Volunteer Manager (Noluthando Shelle) were able to mobilise volunteers



consistently throughout the year- from a vibrant O-week to a final volunteer session this semester. This year the Oppidans worked developmentally, taking their mandate from the stakeholders who benefit from the CSD Toy Library and used their vast human capital to realise the goals that emerged.

They facilitated a rich experience for first year students through the Community Engagement Orientation short course which was presented for the first time as part of the extend orientation programme, in partnership with the DSA. Managed to initiate a clean up of the Traffic play area at the Joza Youth Hub after which people appointed by the ward councillor and community members continue to maintain the area. Students also co-hosted the CSD Toy Library stall at the Joza Youth Hub's Open day, held a book drive and went on to facilitate weekly literacy and play session for young children at the CSD Toy Library in Joza. Most inspiring however, is the integration of the community partner into hall life through various hall committee meetings and events.

Thank you, Oppidan Hall. Your dedication, towards delivering high-quality output in every task assigned to you is truly commendable.

AWARD CITATIONS

Nelson Mandela Hall

The Community Engagement Representatives and the Volunteer Manager, of our next finalist share a very special bond which is one of the important aspects of the Siyakhana@Makhanda Programme; building strong meaningful relationships.



Tonight's finalists had 3 goals for the year which were superbly executed with support from their teams. In the context of creating more inclusive school environment and promoting healthy living conditions, their first goal was a Pad Drive and Clean Up at the school. Two full buses of energetic students made swift work of both tasks. The learners were very appreciative of their 'older siblings' which is how they view the student volunteers.

Their next project was a Book Handover and Career Day. This project was very intentional as they were focusing on South Africa's literacy and employment crisis. As a result, teachers report that more learners are reading than before, some even reading outside the classrooms during break times. Then later in the year a devastating loss of a learner at the school led to the CE Representatives and the Volunteer Manager having a Mental Health Day to raise awareness mental illness, suicide and other psychosocial issues. Each year, this group continue to leave footprints of impact in our Makhanda community. Congratulations Nelson Mandela Hall and CM Vellem Primary School.

SOCIETY/CLUB OF THE YEAR

RU Mountain Club

The RU Mountain Club is deeply entrenched in being relevant and engaged with local communities. They have been winners of this award three times previously and so to receive this award another time requires exemplary community engagement understanding and practice.

AWARD CITATIONS

This year the Club formed a new partnership with the Eluxolweni Place of Safety for Boys. Negotiating a mutually beneficial and sustainable partnership from scratch is no small feat. The navigated this independently as a whole committee – each stakeholder bring their piece to the table. During the year they had huge successes in introducing the boys to outdoor activities such as

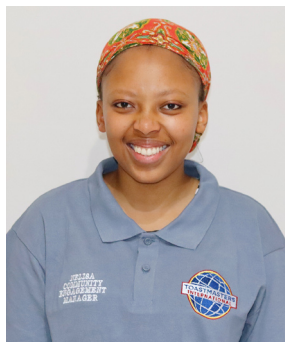


camping, slack lining and climbing to address the developmental and psychosocial support needs of the boys. Through these activities and mentorship relationships, they have managed to develop a reciprocal relationship with the social workers and the boys, and these engagements will no doubt

have a profound impact on the boys' lives. This Club has truly shown how the collective power of students to collaborate and work closely with the community around community-identified challenges can make a meaningful impact on community university partnerships. Congratulations to the RU Mountain Club.

RU Toastmasters

The Rhodes University Toastmasters society has pioneered a communication and leadership youth program aimed at developing the critical soft skills of learners through the first Rhodes University Toastmasters Public Speaking Competition. The RU Toastmasters Club's purpose is to create



a mutually supportive and constructive learning environment in which every participant may improve oral communication and leadership abilities, fostering self-confidence and personal growth. This year they journeyed with Nombulelo High School students keeping two aims in mind: to provide a fun and safe place space for learners to study and grow, and to promote inclusivity and multilingualism. Their vision for the Community Engagement program was to help improve learners communication abilities and empower them to venture out of their comfort zones.

AWARD CITATIONS

They worked strategically with the learners throughout the year to build relationships and skills with the learners. Their approach to building mutually beneficial relationships was evident in their commitment to using Rhodes campus and school venues, to using multiple languages and being consistent and emergent in their programming.

Congratulations, RU toastmasters your fresh perspectives and your innovation make you an asset to our community.

Rhodes University Seventh-Day Adventist Student Movement Society

Drawn together by a common faith tonight's finalists sought to address various socio-economic challenges affecting their community and thus impacting children's' learning. Grahamstown Seventh Day Adventist Primary School is materially under-resourced. This negatively impacts the educational attainment of the



learners attending the school. Together with the school, this society aimed to improve student literacy and provide a supportive learning environment in the classroom. They co-facilitated a career day for the Grade 7s to inspire and prepare learners for their high school journey. They also tackled the stationery and book shortage at the school by holding drives and the fixing a library that was not conducive for learning.

Under the leadership of Fezekile Dhlamini the strong-willed and passionate CE Rep of the society who demonstrated exemplary leadership skills and professionalism the society saw a blossoming partnership that was inclusive and nurturing- so much so that children at the school were included in the library renovations. Congratulations to RU Seventh Day Adventist Student Movement and your community partner for the remarkable achievement!

AWARD CITATIONS

STUDENT RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR

Nigel Machiha

Our winner of tonight's student researcher award has grown in leaps and bounds through his community engagement journey as a volunteer, student leader and now researcher.

It was his volunteer experiences that sparked his interest in researching decoloniality and epistemic justice. In recognition of this he launched his research journey in 2021 as one of the first members in the 9/10ths research group with the topic 'Epistemological Access: The potential and limitations of the 9/10ths program as a vehicle for the decolonization of higher education in Makhanda '. Since then, he has embarked on a



Master of Political and International Studies which is firmly rooted and focussed on the topic of making universities relevant and accessible to their communities. As a research participant, volunteer or researcher he brings valuable insights and wisdom to his own and others work; demonstrating the experience and process of the intricate and multi-faceted process of engaged research.

In making his work accessible he has presented at the RU/DUT symposium in 2021 and was selected as a delegate to present at the Tailloiries Network Conference in Bloemfontein last year. This year he shared insights at the RUCI imbizo and has been a member of a multidisciplinary team of Masters Students who participated in the 2022 Advancing Development Goals International Contest for Graduate Students (Geneva Challenge) hosted by the Geneva Graduate Institute. The competition required students to present innovative and pragmatic solutions to address the challenges of poverty reduction. The RUCI team, presented a proposal, drawing inspiration from evidence-based knowledge in BuddingQ for a 'glocal systems approach to impactful ECD' in the project, impactx. The team was finalist in this global competition. Congratulations, Nigel Machiha.

AWARD CITATIONS

STUDENT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Lilitha Boco

Lilitha has been member of the BuddingQ community throughout her 3 years at Rhodes. Joining the programme during the pandemic in 2020, Lilitha was part of the first cohort of volunteers to be trained and implement BuddingQ virtually. At this early stage, Lilitha stood out as somebody who intuitively understood the values and principles of Community Engagement. During the pandemic she elected to translate children's books into her home language for Book Dash and submitted critical thoughts on issues of South Africa's literacy crisis.



From her second year, she has served as a leader in the BuddingQ programme where she works tirelessly to bring teachers on board as co-facilitators of the programme. This year, Lilitha took her deep understanding of community engagement to the global stage by participating in the University Social Responsibility Network's Bootcamp where she demonstrated her ability to link her academic work in Linguistics to the mission and intent of her volunteer focus in BuddingQ. One day she hopes to go into research and education policy making and if her contributions to our IDP discussions and volunteer training sessions are anything to go by, the future of our children is in good hands. Congratulations, Lilitha.

Nqobani Dabengwa

Nqobani has been a volunteer in the Engaged Citizen Programme for the past four years and has been the student leader for Home of Joy for the past two years. This year he has been instrumental in coordinating the efforts and activities of all the ECP volunteers, Societies and Community Psychology students involved at Home of Joy. This coordination requires a lived knowledge of the CE



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principles and values to ensure that all activities were jointly planned, jointly executed, and jointly reflected on with the community partners.

And boy, was it a busy year at Home of Joy with over 50 volunteers in and out on a weekly basis. His commitment and passion have led to the children at this place of safety having their education, social and psychological needs being taken care of in a loving and caring yet developmental and transformative manner. He has a very deep understanding and love for community engagement and has shown over the four years how his own sense of self-awareness has grown and how he has blossomed as a transformative leader in the CE space. We look forward to watching your development. Congratulations Nqobani Dabengwa.

Daniel Roodt

Daniel is a very committed young man that gives his best effort in all that he does. He joined the Nine Tenths Mentoring Programme in his first year amidst the pandemic in 2020. He was a mentor for two years. In 2022, he became a student leader of the programme. He approaches this position with diligence and encouraging, gentle leadership.



Daniel is also a Journalism and Media Studies student and he has incorporated the work that he does in 9/10ths into his academics by producing documentaries on the learning loss of children during the pandemic – something he’s been witnessing first hand. During the time that Daniel has been a volunteer at RUCCE, he has proved to be a hardworking, reliable, and trustworthy person. His mentees are gifted to have had him as a mentor as he will go the extra mile for them to ensure that they reach their fullest potential. In 2020, when one of his mentees had not been taught because there was no teacher, Daniel asked his high school teacher for assistance so that his mentee would still be able to catch up with the curriculum. The 9/10ths Mentoring Programme is privileged to have a mentor and a leader of his caliber. Congratulations, Daniel.

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Lian May

Lian has already been a finalist twice before and so the recognition he receives tonight is for extraordinary achievement in one year, 2022. This year is his sixth year of volunteering and he has been a student leader in every programme we offer. Safe to say, Community Engagement is in his blood. Taken from his award application he says “ I know for sure I want to work with people in community projects and help sustain and uplift existing projects. I would also like to work in policy making spaces to ensure that inclusive policies are created that speaks to the needs on the ground and



forever being an activist for change. I believe graduates that has been involved in volunteering with RUC are really of a higher caliber... Being a local from Makhanda, I see the difference RUC has been making over the years”.

This year, however, his has significantly increased his contribution to his own community as a local from volunteering 1 hour a week to 3! He has offered valuable input on the university’s IDP – a highlight of his involvement this year, knowing his voice matters; he has been a child practitioner advocating for early child literacy in BuddingQ, a 9/10ths leader, assisting Grade 12 learners preparing for tertiary education and also working the RU staff members on basic computer skills in ECP. And, on his own volition organised a group of students to tutor Maths Literacy at Mary Waters when they had no teachers to teach the subject. Congratulations, Lian.

AWARD CITATIONS

Melody Chauke



Melody has been a steady member of the RUCÉ family since her first year at Rhodes University. She joined BuddingQ in her first year and quickly rose to leadership ranks. In her second year she was a student leader in BuddingQ and ECP as well as a CE Rep on the Rosa Parks House Committee and two different Societies. In all of these positions she did not shy away from a challenge. In BuddingQ she led our largest group of volunteers, in one of our most demanding schools (with over 90 Grade R children per session). In ECP she worked respectfully and diligently with children with disabilities and as a house CE Rep she created an engaged and consistent community

of active student volunteers. This year, despite many personal hardships she maintained her commitment to leadership and community engagement leading another BuddingQ & ECP group, becoming a 9/10ths mentor and establishing a CE project for another society, ABSIP.

Melody has an infectious energy for Community Engagement and life that manifests in her living. Her ability to rise above challenge to connect people, create belonging and effect meaningful social change is admirable. For her resilience and commitment we congratulate, Melody Chauke!

Takudzwa Makuwa

Takuzwa (Boots) started his journey as a reluctant CE Rep on house committee in 2020 and has since become a fully-fledged RUCÉ family member and volunteer in BuddingQ since then. He is one of very few males in the early childhood sector and has proven to role-model a positive masculinity that has encouraged others to join the programme. His contributions and reflections have contributed substantially to how the programme is



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conducted and made more inclusive. As such he was selected as a delegate member to attend the Tailloiries Network Conference in Bloemfontein in 2021.

He has also been a student leader in the BuddingQ for the last 2 years. Student leaders in the BuddingQ programme are required to make sustained and in depth commitment to the programme. In their role as co coordinators of the BuddingQ programme they are involved in training and managing volunteers, assessing the children participating in the programme and assist in the monitoring and evaluation of the programme. He is well respected by his peers and volunteer group and manages the relationships with a quiet ethicality that reflects his own flair in the space – which is refreshingly quirky! Congratulations, Takudzwa (Boots) Makuwa.

Perryn Richardson

Perryn is a stalwart of the Khanya Maths and Science Club. She has been involved in Khanya Maths and Science for the past four years. She has been part of transforming the way the Club operates and has been key in working with RUCE and GADRA Education to coordinate tutors involved in the programme.

The pandemic brought so many challenges to the Club as it relates to tutoring and in 2021, amid the pandemic, she continued as a tutor and was a good support to the student leader, Kristen- which she continues to be. Her passion, commitment and dedication has resulted in her building strong relationships with other tutors and with the learners as well. She has developed a deep understanding and passion for developmental and transformative community engagement and was able to reflect on her personal journey in community engagement when she co-presented at the RUCE imbizo in May this year. Thanks you for your commitment to the children of this city and the advancement of science and maths, Perryn Richardson.



Monica Mathebula



Having joined Rhodes mid-degree, Monica's immediate commitment to community engagement was evident. She has been a volunteer and student leader in BuddingQ for three years at CM Vellem. For 3 years she's had a 100% attendance rate which has been her foundation for building a deep understanding of community engagement.

Having been at a single school throughout her volunteer career, she has formed impeccably close relationships with our community partners. She often goes above and beyond- whether it's the baseline assessments that got her so engrossed you have to go fetch other volunteers and come back for her or if its being a mentor to newer leaders or a fantastic trainer; Monica can be relied on. She is organised and knowledgeable and a quiet authority that gently brings her team along with her. As a sub-warden in Hugh Masekela Hall she has led by example and continued to promote CE in her personal space by supporting her residence CE Rep and regularly volunteering in the S@M programme.

With dreams of opening a community foundation, we have no doubt that her personal development through these rich experiences that she recalls will make for meaningful social change. Congratulations, Monica.

Chidinma Iheanetu

Chidinma is a passionate educationist. She has been a mentor in the Nine Tenths since 2019 and this year, she became a Student Leader. As a mentor, her mentees are keenly aware of the firm support they receive and each one has gone on to improve their level of pass, improving their life prospects for further education and work. As a Student Leader, she makes sure to lead by example arriving on time and is always organised for mentoring sessions. She holds



her mentors to a high standard and has an assured way of motivating her group. She has a very strong personality – a helpful trait that ensures that everyone in the team is more responsible and accountable in their different roles.

Her passion for education has led her to teach at the GADRA Matric School. This mentor and leader always goes above and beyond her role to ensure that her mentees are comfortable and ready for academic assessments. She is highly appreciated as her contribution in this space has lasting impact. Congratulations, Chidinma Iheanetu.

Kristen Burgess

Kristen is a Masters student in Chemistry and is the student leader of the Khanya Maths and Science Club. She has been involved in the Club since 2021 as a tutor and this year as a student leader. Despite challenges experienced with tutoring via WhatsApp during 2021, she never gave up on learners and her passion, commitment and enthusiasm carried her into 2022 as student leader. The Club has 96 learners and 44 tutors – a momentous task for any student to manage. Yet tonight's finalist does this loyally week in and week out with every Saturday tutoring session fostering a deeper sense of mutual joy for maths and science.



In 2022, she took her experience into the academic realm and co-presented her reflection of community engagement at the Community Engagement symposium giving insightful and profound reflections on her journey as an engaged citizen in the tutoring space. Through her love for community engagement, she has shown how her love for the Sciences connects with her love for community engagement and how her journey reflects a scientist that embodies transformative and developmental community engagement. Congratulations, Kristen Burgess.

VC'S DISTINGUISHED AWARD WINNER

It was with great pleasure that we announced Prof Rod Walker, from the Faculty of Pharmacy, as the recipient of the 2021 Vice Chancellor's Distinguished Award for Community Engagement.

Since university spaces are still among the most privileged spaces in our society, Education White Paper No. 3 (1997) urges higher education institutions to fulfil both a moral and political imperative to contribute to social and epistemic justice and equality through forming partnerships with communities outside of the university in order to restructure their teaching, learning and research practices. In fulfilling this imperative to promote and practice community engagement, universities move away from what has been their traditional role as disengaged 'ivory tower' institutions and become more socially-responsive institutions, championing the struggle against race, gender and class oppression by challenging, problematising, and hopefully changing (where appropriate) individual and collective attitudes through epistemic, pedagogical, psychosocial, and economic endeavours. While certain disciplines are thought to lend themselves more readily to incorporating community engagement into their teaching, learning and research practices, other disciplines with reputations for blue-sky research, theoretical knowledge production and limited field-work or practical activities often struggle to articulate their position within the community engagement landscape.

The winner of the 2021 Vice Chancellor's Distinguished Award for Community Engagement, Prof. Rod Walker, has, over the past two years displayed initiative, determination, and creativity in his response to an unprecedented global health crisis, as well as commitment to developing Rhodes University as a socially-responsive institution through his leadership of the COVID-19 Response: Hand Sanitiser Manufacturing Project.

In 2020 Prof. Walker, a registered pharmacist and researcher with a long career in pharmaceutical product development, responded to an urgent need in the community for hand sanitiser, and thereafter oversaw the development and sustainment of this project. Hand sanitiser is an essential intervention to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 and it was the local and provincial shortage of this product that sparked this project. The COVID-19 pandemic necessitated the use of hand sanitiser in healthcare settings and also by individuals, businesses, transport services and various other sectors. Seeing an opportunity to use his knowledge, skills and resources available at the university, Prof. Walker partnered with the Department of Health, local community partners, students and other

role players to set up a small-scale hand sanitiser manufacturing plant in the Pharmacy Faculty. As the pandemic continued, the project grew to include elements of knowledge transfer, service-learning, and a wide reach to diverse communities.

When the Pharmacy Faculty was approached by the university, local hospitals and clinics, medical practices and even NGOs, with queries about the supply of hand sanitiser, Prof. Walker set up a manufacturing plant to produce hand sanitizer which complied with the standards suggested by the WHO. To date, 14 562 litres of hand sanitizer have been produced in the facility. With the collaboration of community partners: the Department of Health; the Department Rural Development and Agrarian Reform; SAIAB; the Unbunye Foundation; the Dohne Agricultural Research Institute; and, the Departments of Pharmacy, Physics and Chemistry, this project has resulted more than 14 million hands being sanitised. The distribution of this hand sanitiser has reached far beyond the boundaries of the university, Makhanda or even Makana District. Healthcare workers in busy hospitals to rural communities and about 3000 farmers have all benefited.

In addition, Prof. Walker has shared knowledge and tools so that others can set up their own facilities. Scientists from the Dohne Institute have already done so and students in the Pharmacy Faculty who have been involved will take their knowledge and experience forward with them as they enter their internship and community service. Students were also given the opportunity to communicate science in the media, demonstrating how science can be put into practice. Based on this project, a new Service Learning course, an Industrial Pharmacy elective, has been developed by Prof. Walker's colleagues, and a research project straddling a number of departments has been initiated, promoting the nexus of community engagement, teaching, learning and research at our institution.

Prof. Walker is commended for his ability to harness years of academic knowledge to pivot quickly to provide an appropriate and effective response to a global and local crisis. The rigor of the process of setting up the project and sustaining it through reciprocal partnerships and teaching and learning and research endeavours are acknowledged. Moreover, the emotional weight that this project carried at a time of great fear, anxiety and tragedy, is greatly appreciated.

The Award to Prof. Walker will be made at the Graduation in 2022.

Congratulations to Prof. Walker!

RHODES UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RUCE) HIGHLIGHTS

In the current democratic context, universities are required to contribute to the social and economic development of local communities and inculcate social and civic responsibilities in students. Through its nexus with teaching and research, community engagement (CE) enables and promotes the public good purpose of the university and active citizenry of students. CE has an important role to play in order to realise the vision, mission and developmental agenda of Rhodes University.

CE is an unfunded national mandate. For this reason, the Rhodes University Community Engagement (RUCE) division is hugely reliant on the support of external Donors to enable and fulfil the social responsibility role of the university. To this end, we are **extremely grateful to our Donor Partners** who have supported RUCE in 2022, without which we could not have achieved the milestones I am about to share with you this evening. Our sincere thanks to our Donor Partners, Ms Zanele Twala and Ms Phumla Hobe Yabo from the Standard Bank Tutuwa Community Foundation, Ms Bulelani Ntuli from the Nedbank Eyethu Fund, Ms Vuyo Mwase from the Energy Mobility Education Trust, Ms Lynn Fiser from the Davies Foundation, Ms Lesedi Madi and Gcine Mpanza from the Makana Winds of Change Community Trust and Mr Paul Smith from the Kagiso Fund.

Community engagement is embedded in the academic programme of Rhodes University. This report will highlight the 2022 successes of community engagement in the areas of Engaged Research, Engaged Teaching and Learning, and Engaged Citizenship.

Engaged Research

It has been pleasing to note that the research output for 2022 continues on an upward trajectory. In order to firmly establish Community Engagement as a core function of Universities in South Africa, we need to contribute to the scholarship of engagement and grow the national body of knowledge in this emerging discipline.

At the **Annual Imbizo** held in May, Prof Peter Clayton, the DVC for Research, was the keynote speaker and highlighted the importance of Community Engagement as one of the key foundational principles of the university. He also officially launched the **Rhodes University African Journal for Higher Education Community Engagement**, an initiative led by RUCE. This journal will be the first community engagement journal in the country.

Other highlights in engaged research are:

The RU accredited Engaged Research short course with the focus on community based participatory research was successfully offered three times this year; twice at RU with 13 academics completing the course and the course was also offered to 14 academics from the University of Zululand over 5 days in June.

An exciting extension of the engaged research education programme is a short course in community based participatory research developed in partnership with the Community Organisations of Makhanda. The jointly developed Engaged Research short course was successfully piloted in August this year with 15 Community based organisations. This co-curricular activity in engaged research is the first of its kind and the feedback was outstanding.

Rhodes University is one of 22 **Knowledge for Change (K4C)** hubs that have been established in 16 countries as part of Knowledge for Change Global Consortium for Training in Community Based Research, an initiative of the UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education. Three of our staff and one Community Partner have been trained in Community Based Participatory Research by this consortium and will be attending a Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in November.

Our thanks to the Director of the Research Office, Jaine Roberts who granted us our first **Post Doc Research Fellow**. Dr Bertha Sibhensana was appointed in April this year. Her research focus area is social innovation and social entrepreneurship, which we believe, is critical for community development. RUCE is currently in the process of establishing social innovation and entrepreneurship as the fourth form of CE at RU.

Dr Oosthuizen, RUCE Research Co-ordinator attended the 3rd UNESCO World Higher Education Conference in Barcelona, Spain this year where she was asked to present on the RUCE model. She was one of three international panelists invited to serve on a panel in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Barcelona on People Centered Health Care.

Engaged Teaching and Learning

In 2019, RUCE launched an accredited online short course, titled - **Community-Based Service-Learning: What-Why-Where**. The course has done much to assist academics to develop quality SL programmes as it has equipped them with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills required for SL.

In 2022, two courses were offered at Rhodes, attracting 15 academics. A further course was offered at the university of Zululand for 17 academics. Two SL webinars were requested by the University of Zululand which were attended by 55 academics.

2022 has seen a **healthy growth in service learning** with many young academics interested in the SL short course, which is followed by working with RUCE to find a suitable partner in order to establish a SL programme. The number of SL courses this year has grown to 29 programmes from 21 last year with a further 17 new programmes in the making, resulting in the potential of 46 SL programmes across 6 faculties. One new Service Learning Programme is the **Winter Maths School**, an initiative of the Statistics Department led by Prof Lizanne Raubenheimer. The initiative involved Honours and Masters students and benefitted 60 learners from Ntsika, Khutliso and Mary Waters secondary schools.

RUCE has **12 accredited short courses registered**. This year 28 short courses have been offered. The number of course beneficiaries has grown from 40 academics and 378 student in 2021 to 102 academics and 972 students who receive certificates this year. These short courses form the theoretical basis of all the Engaged Citizen (Volunteer) Programmes which are reported on below.

VC's Education Programme success 2017 - 2021

The impact of the VC's Education Initiative, which includes RUCE programmes and Departmental Service Learning programmes over the past 5 years is recorded in the 8 stats below.

- 1) **Skyrocketing numbers of Bachelor-level passes from local disadvantaged schools:** In six years the number of Bachelor passes produced at the six no-fee schools in Makhanda more than tripled, from 51 in 2016 to 183 in 2021.
- 2) **City-wide improvement in matric pass rates:** Nine years ago, the then Grahamstown district was one of the ten worst performing education districts in South Africa. By contrast, in both 2020 and 2021 the city of Makhanda outperformed every other city in the province of the Eastern Cape (in this regard). Its record 2021 pass rate of 83% means that Makhanda consolidates its position as the leading education city in the province and it also moves the city to within 6 percentage points of the top performing education district nationally, namely Tshwane South (in Gauteng), which achieved a pass rate of 89%.

- 3) **Enabling local disadvantaged students to gain access to Rhodes:** The number of locally disadvantaged students who have gained access to Rhodes University has increased tenfold over the past decade, from 11 in 2012 to around 120 in 2021.
- 4) **The birth and scaling of a Bridging Programme for Makhanda youth:** The Bridging Programme allows students to simultaneously upgrade NSC subjects at GADRA while securing a Rhodes credit (or two). Since it was successfully piloted, a total of 183 local students have benefitted from it. The programme has enjoyed an academic success rate of 90%.
- 5) **Rhodes students are the heart and soul of the Vice-Chancellor’s Initiative (VCI):** 4 426 students have volunteered over the past five years and approximately 470 students involved in the VCI on an annual basis, either as volunteers or in service learning programmes.
- 6) **Researching volunteerism and the scholarship of engagement:** The VCI recognises all three key areas of the academic project – research, teaching and learning, and community engagement. The 2021 establishment of ‘the Nine Tenths Research Group’, dedicated to engaged research on the highly successful Nine Tenths Mentoring, is a significant step toward achieving the sustainable integration of research and community engagement in this instance. In 2021, the group successfully delivered 5 Honours research projects. In addition, a research paper on Nine Tenths was published in a peer-reviewed journal in 2021. Other aspects of the VCI, including its literacy enhancement interventions, are similarly fostering a research profile.
- 7) **Developing School Leadership:** To date, 30 local school leaders have met the criteria and received certificates from a course designed and offered by the RU Business school.
- 8) **Building a community of good teaching practice in our primary schools:** In 2014 the Rhodes Education Department developed an accredited short course in teacher professional development - over 130 certificates have been awarded.
- 9) **Strong community-university partnerships** have been established between GADRA Education, Schools, Lebone Centre, various Education NPO’s and RU departments to realise the above gains in public education.

2022 Nine Tenths Matric Mentoring Programme

- A strong partnership in its 7th year with GADRA Education has strengthened the work at Nsika, Nombulelo, Kutliso Daniels and Mary Waters Secondary Schools.
- Nine Tenths started the year on a high note with 147 bachelor passes from the 2021 cohort. The Makhanda Class of 2021 achieved an excellent pass rate of 83% and the Vice Chancellor's Education schools (Khutliso Daniels, Mary Waters, Nombulelo and Ntsika) contributed 91% to the city's pass. The impressive number of good quality bachelor passes led to 50 mentees being accepted at Rhodes University as full-time students this year.
- **128** trained RU student volunteers (of which 14 were student leaders) reaching 198 Gr 12 pupils in four local no-fee paying High schools for individual mentoring.
- 83 mentors successfully completed the accredited mentoring short course and have been effective and consistent throughout the year. Mentors have shown so much commitment towards the programme that during the mid-year vacation, they assisted the Mary Waters matric learners with extra mathematics classes.
- Currently in the 2022 cohort, 55 matriculants have applied to Rhodes University and 18 learners have already been accepted.
- The Nine Tenths Research group produced some very insightful finding and we are very grateful to Claire McCann for establishing the group and giving it direction. Claire has been awarded an Oxford Scholarship and will be replaced by Dr Bertha Sibhensana.

BuddingQ Literacy Programme for Gr R and Gr 1

- 2022 has been a super year for BuddingQ. The start of the new year saw 2 new schools joining the programme which means that 11 of the 15 primary schools in Makhanda are involved in the programme reaching approximately 450 children weekly.
- 82 students received certificates for the RU accredited short course this year - up from 50 last year.
- Another advancement of BuddingQ was the addition of a formal pre-literacy component which has been implemented since the second semester. This element of the programme runs in partnership with the ADC and their 35 interns on the Learning Trust's Government Intern scheme who work on an individual basis with learners in 5 of our partner schools daily.

- On the global stage, a multidisciplinary team of Masters Students (Claire McCann, Anna Talbot and Nigel Machiha) participated in the 2022 Advancing Development Goals International Contest for Graduate Students (Geneva Challenge) hosted by the Geneva Graduate Institute. The competition required students to present innovative and pragmatic solutions to address the challenges of poverty reduction. The RUC team, is a **finalist in this global competition** and awaiting results of the winners.
- A Masters study on the effectiveness of BuddingQ programme is being finalised currently, to be published in early 2023. Findings from this research indicate that BuddingQ has effected substantive improvement in the children’s motor development and there has been significant changes in classroom practice.
- Anna Talbot, the Programme Co-ordinator will be presenting a paper at the Global Sustainability congress in Glasgow, Scotland later this month.

Vulindlela Programme

The purpose of this programme is creating pathways into RU for the children of RU staff in Grades 1 to 5. The Vulindlela Programme, co-ordinated by Thandi Nqowana attracted a record number of 51 parents and 66 pupils in Grade 10-12 this year.

Enhancing the NEXUS between teaching, research and CE, the Vulindlela Programme collaborated with the Management and Journalism Departments this year to establish 2 service learning programmes. The Journalism partnership resulted in 410 Grade 12 learners in Makhanda receiving SD Cards loaded with carefully selected content to help them prepare for matric. The Honours students in the Management Department coached parents in the GBS Financial Life Skills course. This structured 20 hour course was run over 5 weeks and offered twice to reach all the parents.

The Academic support component for Grade 10 to 12 pupils was offered by 14 Rhodes University tutors every Saturday morning at the Faculty of Education. We are very grateful to the Faculty to availing their lecture venues for this programme. The Programme Coordinator, Thandi Nqowana, is in the final stages of her PhD. She is developing a self-powering, water monitoring prototype technology which will allow communities to detect harmful bacteria in the water in a matter of minutes. She will be travelling to Malaysia in November to contribute to a Community of Practice in Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR). She was one of three young Scientists recognised by SockETS- Cocreation network for her scientific innovation.

PG Dip Higher Education Community Engagement

RUCE has submitted for approval the **PGDip Higher Education Community Engagement** qualification which will be accredited through the Faculty of Education at Rhodes University. This postgraduate professional development qualification at Level 8 is the first of its kind to be offered in South Africa and globally. We are pleased to report that this qualification has been well supported at the various University Committees and is currently following the submission path to DHET and SAQA. The intention is to offer the PGDip in 2024 and is expected to help build the knowledge base of CE in SA.

VC's Distinguished Award for CE

I am mentioning this Award here to show how a socially responsive initiative not only contributes to community development but has the potential to grow into engaged teaching and engaged research activities.

The winner of the 2021 **Vice Chancellor's Distinguished Award for Community Engagement** was Professor Rod Walker, who displayed initiative, determination, and creativity in his response to an unprecedented global health crisis, the COVID 19 pandemic, as well as commitment to developing Rhodes University as a socially-responsive institution through his leadership of the Hand Sanitiser Manufacturing Project. The project has since evolved and now encompasses a service-learning course and a research project. Tonight our Annual Award for students and community partner organisations will be announced and I am sure you will be very impressed by the deep commitment of our students and community partner organisations as they work collaboratively to contribute to the transformation of our community.

Engaged Citizen Programme

The largest number of student volunteers comprising 387 students enrolled for the ECP in 2022, with 342 of them completing the theoretical component and participating meaningfully in their community sites. Eighteen community partner organisations formed part of the ECP programme this year. In 2023, the ECP will take a new form by splitting its activities in three more targeted interventions namely high school tutoring, Grade 1 literacy and social innovation.

Siyakhana@Makhanda Programme (CE for Residences)

The momentum in the Residence space was very encouraging this year. The 54 elected CE Residence Representatives were active in exercising their leadership this year. They, together with their Community Partner Organisation Managers were trained in Asset Based Community

Development (ABCD) in March this year. Each Hall was partnered with an Early Childhood Development Centre which allows for relationship building and ensures sustainability. Phase one involved joint planning around an identified project, phase two was the joint implementation and phase three was evaluating and celebrating the success. Each week saw over 100 students working in the 15 ECD sites to achieve the shared goals.

Societies and Sport Clubs

RU Societies and Sports clubs were confronted with a number of difficulties at the start of the year, including a limited budget for community engagement projects. The focus this year was to partner societies and sports clubs with local primary schools, which resulted in some exciting initiatives, inspite of the challenges and a slow start.

CE Orientation for 1st Years

Working in partnership with the Division of Student Affairs (DSA), RUC developed a compulsory accredited short course for all first year students, titled the ‘CE Orientation’ (CEO) course. The second element to the orientation of 1st years includes ‘Exploring Makhanda’, a new initiative that is a compulsory bus trip around Makhanda East and West. We were very grateful to the DSA for funding the Exploring Makhanda tour and supporting the new course. We will be building on this initiative with the DSA in 2023 and look forward to a bumper year.

RU Social Innovation Hub

The Social Innovation Hub had a busy year supporting our communities with digital resources! The SIH Hub organised 11 Digital Storytelling training workshops from January to September, encouraging over sixty participants to share their unique stories. The three-day short course has been popular with Academic departments, NPO’s, CBP’s and other SA Universities. Other related successes worth mentioning include:

- Thandi Matyobeni and Anna Talbot travelled to North-West University to help them establish a Social Innovation Hub based on the RUC model. They also introduced them to Digital Storytelling short course.
- Computer Literacy classes have been oversubscribed in 2022. Over 100 individuals have received certificates for completing the comprehensive RUC short course.
- RUC has established eight semi-fixed labs in local NPO’s and schools as one of the strategies to close the digital divide – these sites include Eluxolweni, Ubuntu Bethu, Holy Cross, Associations for the Physically-Disabled and Shaw Park Primary.

- Our digital Resource library has seen a year of transformation with additional computers being donated by Rhodes.
- Co-ordinators Thandi Matyobeni and Anna Talbot presented papers at the 2022 Digital Storytelling Conference in the UK in May.

Community-University Partnerships (CUP's) is the life blood that connects Rhodes University to our local, provincial, national and global community. The Vice Chancellor is often heard encouraging the University to be ‘simultaneously locally responsive and globally engaged’, a statement that RUCE takes seriously and works hard to achieve at all levels.

RUCE's **Community Engagement Faculty Representatives** have been greatly supportive this year. It is the first year that all 6 reps have remained the same which has been most helpful to build CE at Faculty level. A special thanks to the Humanities rep, Prof Sam Naidu, Science rep – Joyce Sewry, Education rep – Dr Pam Vale, Law – Adv Shuaib Rahim, Pharmacy – Farisai Chiwanza and Dr Xolile Antoni from Commerce for their immense support and participation.

Lastly to the **super-champions of community engagement**, the VC, Prof Sizwe Mabizela, DVC's Prof Mabokang Monapula-Mapesela and Prof Peter Clayton for your enthusiasm, motivation, direction and support. We know we are blessed to have an executive leadership that truly understands the strategic importance and purpose of community engagement to higher education.

Have a wonderful evening and thank you for giving me the time
to share in our collective efforts tonight.

A very special thanks must go to our Donor Partners
who have invested heavily in our shared vision,
thank you!



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RHODES UNIVERSITY
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