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2020  
COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT  
AWARDS

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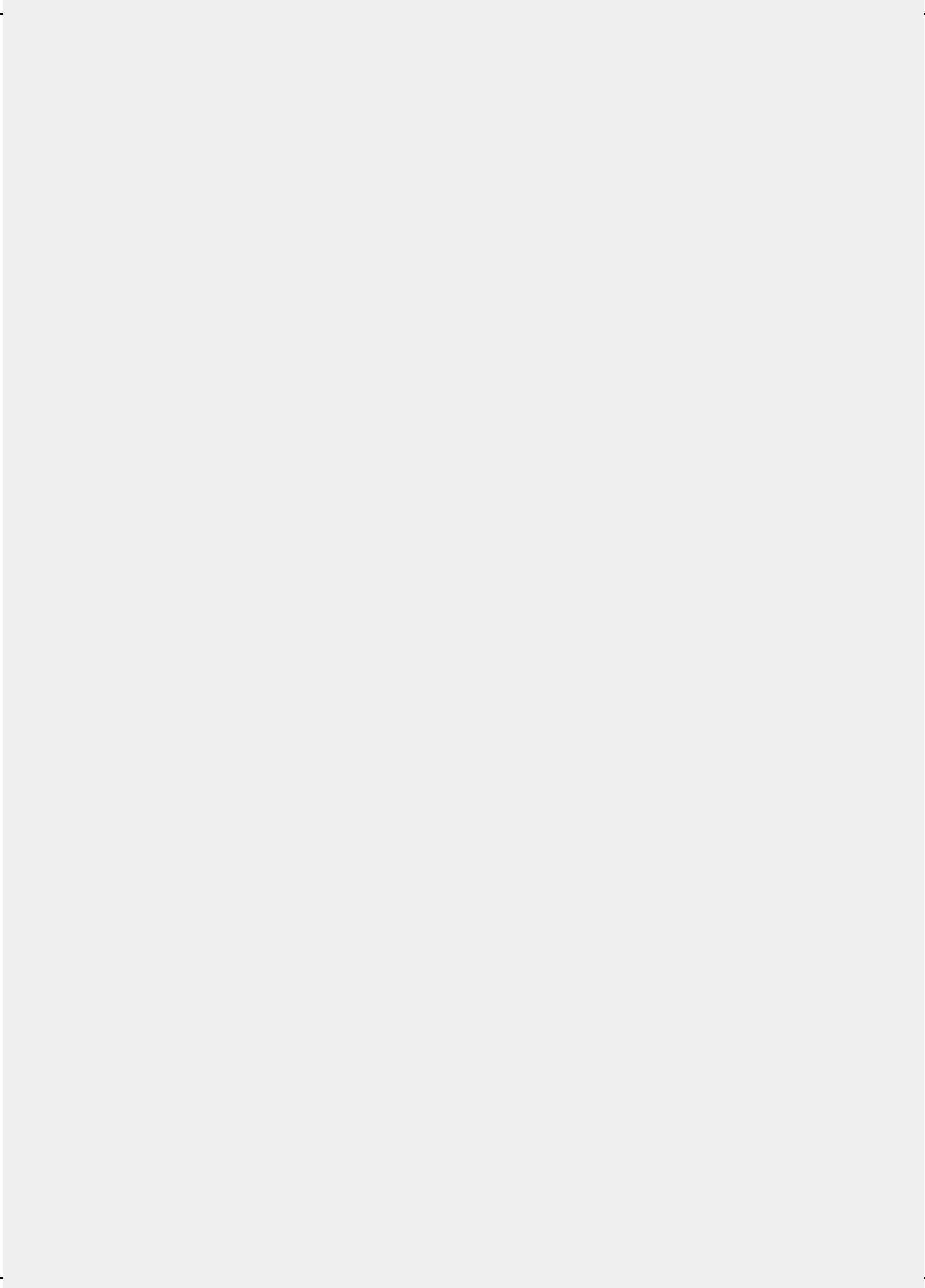
Programme & Awards

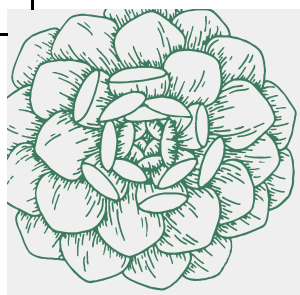
26 November 2020

18h00



**RHODES UNIVERSITY**  
*Where leaders learn*

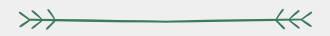




Man never made any material  
as resilient as the  
human Spirit

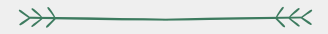


Bern Williams



## 2020 RUCS Saff





# Programme



**18h00** Welcome: Di Wilmot  
Dean: Education Faculty

**18h05** Vice Chancellor's Address

**18h15** Highlights & Summary of 2020  
Di Hornby

**18h20** Musical Interlude

*Community partner & student leader names flowing on screen*

**18h25** Society/Sports Club of the Year  
Anna Talbot

**18h35** Community Partner of the Year  
Nosi Nkwinti

**18h40** Student Researcher of the Year Award  
Joana Bezerra, Thandie Nqowana

**18h50** Special Awards  
Di Hornby, Thandi Nqowana, Nosi Nkwinti

**19h00** Gold Award for Excellence in Community Engagement  
Thobani Mesani, Thandi Nqowana, Anna Talbot

**19h10** Student Volunteer of the Year Award  
Anna Talbot

**19h15** Thank you and closing of ceremony  
Di Hornby

**Master of Ceremonies Leboghang Nkambule**





# Community Engagement Certificates



## 9/10ths Mentoring short course

Abiodun Afolabi  
Alexandreo Zinhle Talbot  
Alizwa Kweliti  
Amia Benga  
Anathi Sanelisiwe Ndindwa  
Anele Nguse  
Asandra Ogle  
Aviwe Makile  
Azola Ndawuni  
Baitsheki Moteane  
Boitumelo Kadi  
Botlhale Modisaotsile  
Busisiwe Mdunana  
Chiamaka Mary-Ann Onyekwuluje  
Chidinma Uchenna Iheanetu  
Chloe Brandt  
Claire McCann  
Daniel Roodt  
Devron Plaatjies  
Donica Walton  
Esihle Mbiyo  
Geradon Jantjies  
Hazel Simpo  
Hlengiwe Mlambo  
Hlumanzi Mchaba  
Jenna Skinner  
Jodi-Anne Rooi  
Joshua Bell  
Karabo Lamola  
Kholosa Mdleleni  
Lebohang Rakosa  
Lerato Maganca  
Lerato Rankhumise  
Lihle Manene  
Lindiwe Charlie  
Lisakhanya Dobe  
Liyema Ndzipo  
Llewellyn Vicario Naicker  
Londeka Zulu

Lungile Mbatha  
Luyanda Hadebe  
Makube Qinela  
Masego Chauke  
Mashudu Mphaphuli  
Mbali Mashugane  
Megan Reid  
Michelle Banda  
Moipone Semoko  
Musawenkosi  
Buthelezi  
Muz'okhanyayo Makhunga  
Nakhane Simani  
Namhla Tukulu  
Neema Mandi  
Nigel Machiha  
Ntomboxolo Hlwitana  
Ntseka Masoabi  
Nwabisa Timana  
Palesa Ntshanga  
Panashe Mahlokozeru  
Panashe Mildre Maneya  
Patience Dube  
Phumelele Zwane  
Pronalis Tapfumaneyi  
Regan Bhero  
Samantha Ncula  
Shakhola Emmanuel Sekeleme  
Sifanelwe Mini  
Sihle Ngalonkulu  
Silence Balele  
Sinazo Madakana  
Sinovuyo Mayekiso  
Siphesihle Nocanda  
Siphosethu Nyarashe  
Sivenathi Duma  
Sovash Chetty  
Tadiwanashe Vanessa Zezere  
Talia Bentele

Tanaka Parawira  
Thabiso Nxumalo  
Thandiwe Tyelakhe  
Tiisetso Neluheni  
Tshegofatso Makube  
Tsholofelo Daumas  
Tsholofelo Sepotokele  
Usisipho Batyi  
Vanessa Kekana  
Vanessa Ncube  
Zakeelah Jansen  
Zikhona Mamase  
Zikhona Nyumka  
Zolani Kabane

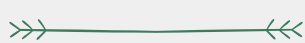


2020 Nine Tenths Student Leaders

## 9/10ths student leaders

Megan Reid  
Lerato Rankhumise  
Samantha Ncula  
Alizwa Kweliti  
Claire McCann  
Namhla Tukulu  
Nigel Machiha  
Busisiwe Mdunana  
Mashudu Mphaphuli  
Mbali Mashugane  
Luyanda Hadebe  
Esihle Mbiyo





# Community Engagement Certificates



## BuddingQ Full year volunteers

Ababalwe Lubengu  
Amanda Mgaba  
Anetta Sikhakhane  
Asante Msimang  
Azelea Nerine Robyn Harker  
Beth Rowley  
Brightness Mdukulwane

Mariline Ngubane  
Michelle Dhlamini  
Monica Lerato Mathebula  
Mphumelelo Sikosana  
Mukgadi Faith Sathekge  
Nelisiwe Mdau  
Ngalava Melody Chauke

Variksha Singh  
Vuyo Blaai  
Vuyolwethu Makamba  
Zandile Ndebele

## BuddingQ Semester volunteers

Anelisa Mfenyana  
Gungubele Yolisa Jali  
Hilda Anesu Manase  
Koketso Maleka  
Luyanda Hadebe  
Lwandile Ngcobe  
Minienhle Yeka  
Ntombekhaya Fundani  
Onika Dyantyi  
Ruth Rutendo Maposa  
Sasha Dias  
Sinazo Sonjica  
Thuladu Phindile Sweetness Mgobhozi  
Yonela Sakati



Cait Jenna McCann  
Caroline Sparks  
Ciara Willis  
Dumazile Linah Mokoena  
Emily Clare Morgan  
Emma Wagenaar  
Georgina Eloise Snaddon  
Hlela Dayimani  
Khanyisa Ngquleka  
Kirsten Rosemary van den Berg  
Kuhlekwethu Ngwenya  
Latita Nongogo  
Lerato Leboho  
Lilitha Boco  
Lunathi Mangqunge

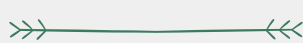
Nkosazana Ndlovu  
Nosipho Binza  
Panashe Mildred Maneya  
Phumza Hobs  
Shakhola Emmanuel Sekeleme  
Sibongiseni Beja  
Sindiswa Shelembe  
Sinovuyo Smayile  
Sydney Nel  
Takudzwa Blessing Makuwa  
Tandokazi Kala  
Thembelani Chili  
Thina Dumalisile  
Uthandile Samela  
Valeria Tabeth Watama

## BuddingQ student leaders

Anelisa Mfenyana  
Asante Msimang  
Beth Rowley  
Emma Wagenaar  
Kuhlekwethu Ngwenya  
Lebogang Nkhambule  
Londeka Zulu  
Tatenda Chakabuda  
Uthandile Samela  
Zenande Mbiyoza







# Community Engagement Certificates



## CERCO Short Course

Alec Jirachareonkul  
Fezekile Dhlamini  
Linda Singatha  
Lindeka Namba  
Llucia Dube  
Mbali Twala  
Mila Ralarala  
Ntsali Makara  
Ofentse Didibeng  
Sacree Kabeya  
Sinokuhle Mzondo

*His Little Ones Day Care Centre -*  
Allison Mackay

*Little Stars of Hope ECDC -*  
Benecia Goliath

Aviwe Ntutu  
Ayabonga Qhubani  
Ayanda Valentinus Dimpho Boo

## Siyakhana @ Makana Volunteer Managers

*Nokwandle Day Care Centre -*  
Nomazwi Hlwempu

*Cozy Nest CSD School -*  
Berenice Roberts

*Boy-Boy Mginywa Pre-School -*  
Nomfundo Gongqa

*Bright Beginnings ECD Centre -*  
Kim Evans

*Care Hugs ECD Centre -*  
Erica Plaatjies

*Lithalethu Day Care Centre -*  
Luleka Che

*Luzuko ECD Centre -*  
Thandeka Sandi

*Nompumelelo Pre-School -*  
Zukiswa Baba

*Noncedo Pre-school -*  
Lungelwa Kotelo

*Pumpkin Patch Day Care Centre -*  
Busisiwe Boo

*Rhodes Day Care -*  
Essie Davis

*CSD Toy Library -*  
Noluthando Shelle

*CM Vellem Primary School -*  
Nompumelelo Frans

*Happy Kidz Day Care Centre -*  
Christelle Marthinus



RUCE Staff preparing food parcels for ECD Centres

## ECP short course

Alec Jirachareonkul  
Alungile Boqwana  
Alungile Jeme  
Amanda Ntlaki  
Amanda Saunyama  
Amanda Tatenda Saunyama  
Anele Cele  
Anele Hloyi  
Anelisa Macamba  
Anelisa Maku  
Anelisiwe Msweli  
Anita Dywaba  
Annah Mthombeni  
Asakhe Cuntsulana  
Asomeleze Ximiya  
Aviwe Makile

Azola Kuselo  
Bennita Benza  
Bianca Matthis  
Boniswa Zabo  
Bridget Koketso Molopyane  
Buhlebenkosi Sivuyile Sondiyazi  
Buntu Mpongoshe  
Caroline Sparks  
Cassandra Barker  
Chiamaka Okeke  
Chiedza caroline Chikwehwa  
Chumile Nyaka  
Collen Kwaramba  
Cwayita Liyabona Boyana  
Daniel Proestos  
Demazane Nkosi  
Devron Plaatjies  
Emma Kathleen Cole  
Gamuchirai Christian Sitima







# Community Engagement Certificates

## ECP short course

Gcinile Gladys Makhoyane  
Gresham Tembo  
Hayley Beth Price  
Hlumelo Qwakanisa  
Isabelle Wyss  
Ivana Mager  
Julian Kennedy Yeates  
Kalita van Zijl



Kamogelo Hlabangwane  
Kamogelo Mogotlane  
Kamvelihle Buwa  
Katileho Matoone  
Kayolla Betty Khoromana  
Kayur Harilall  
Kenneth Chieza  
Kgaugelo Pertunia Khumalo  
Khanyisa Ngquleka  
Khanyisa Tyolo  
Kiash Harilall  
Kimeshan Pillay  
Kina Lakhani  
Kwakhanya Olinca Mafu  
Landile Philip  
Langelihle Samkeliswe Nxumalo  
Laone Setshedi  
Lay-Lynn Brenda Wright

Lerato Kutumela  
Leseli Chipomho  
Letumile Tumie Ramphele  
Ligugu Nontamo  
Liivha Anastasia Rasimphi  
Lilitha Sinqobile Songelwa  
Lindeka Namba  
Lindokuhle Dyeshana  
Lindokuhle Jawa  
Lineo Fumanisa  
Lisemi Xhotyeni  
Lorah Rutendo Dzimwasha  
Lorraine Tadya  
Ludzi Monyatsiwa  
Lukhanyiso Shaun Cezula  
Lungelo Khoza  
Lusanda Mabandla  
Lwethu Dube  
Mantone Celina Malikhetla  
Marang Montwedi  
Marlene Angwafor  
Matimu Emmanuel Mabunda  
Menesia Jena  
Mfundo Somandi  
Mikaela Webber  
Milca Takudzwa Matariro  
Moliehi Nchee  
Molly Kamanga  
Mpambo Wina  
Mpho Magidi  
Mphumelelo Eureka Sikosana  
Mpilwenhle Tracy Maseko  
Mthokozisi Sishi  
Munashe Rejoice Chikiwa  
Mzwanele Sibanda  
Namhla Kalinjani  
Nanza Sikho Platana  
Ngcongo Gcina  
Ngcwelekazi J. Booie  
Nicole Mamphey  
Nikita Harripersadh

Njabulo Luvuyo Dlamini  
Nobesuthu Mnkandla  
Nompumelelo Tshabalala  
Nomsizi Zamatolo Mtolo  
Nosihle Sitshosonke  
Nosipho Belwana  
Noxolo Manyati  
Nozibele Dyongoman  
Nozibheva Semakaleng  
Nonkanyezi Magagula  
Ngobani Dabengwa  
Ngobile Nzimande  
Ngobile Admire Makamu  
Ngobile Xabiso Mbilini  
Nthathi Tlale  
Ntsali Audry Makara  
Nwabisa Bonde  
Obianuju Akunna Njoku  
Ofentse Didibeng  
Ongezwa Sombava  
Otja Kapeperua Muruko  
Pamela Neliswa Manyala  
Perryn Richardson  
Phaphama Ranuga  
Phiwo Hadebe  
Phumelela Madlavu  
Phumelela Masabalala  
Pinky Nkone  
Pride Sithole  
Ranero Muthana  
Regan Bhero  
Ronewa Hellen Ntsieni  
Ruponeso Nyakurimwa  
Sacree Celine Kabeya  
Sammy Mhlongo  
Sandile Yolanda Masanabo  
Sandisiwe Phillip  
Sandra Mabaso  
Sasha-Lee Schäfli  
Shristi Mahabir  
Sibongile Mbotoza





# Community Engagement Certificates

## ECP short course

Sibulele Sikhemane  
Sifiso Goodman Mthethwa  
Sigcobe Manquma  
Sihle Mnyamana  
Sihle Sinegugu Ngalonkulu  
Simphele Magolego  
Simphele Malinga  
Singatha Linda  
Siphesihle Immaculate Cele  
Sisipho Ndibaza  
Sithabiso Mahuzula Vilakazi  
Sithembiso Sukazi  
Sivesha Bissesar  
Siwongiwe Giyama  
Solofelang Mathsido  
Someleze Honest Mbele  
Sphumelele Bulelo Ntshangase  
Swantish Singh  
Tapiwaashe Zinhumwe  
Tembani Lizzy Nxumalo  
Tendai Muronzi  
Thandeka Minenhle Phakathi  
Thembani Buka  
Thembi Shingange  
Theodore Duxbury  
Tinotenda Denhere  
Tinotenda Murenha  
Tsepo Lepelesana  
Tuleka Ngcingane  
Ubenathi Sisusa  
Ulemu Makolija  
Unarine Mugogovhali  
Uthandile Samela  
Viwe Jwaqu  
Vusimani Khubhayi  
Wendy Princess Mbambo  
Wezizwe Ginindza  
Witness Bokhe

Xiletelo Mabasa  
Xolisa Liso Jeke  
Yanga Bumka  
Yasipha Mgingqi  
Zama Kuhamba  
Zandile Situlweni  
Zawa Dude  
Zenande Landu  
Zenande Maqwelane  
Ziyabukwa Nyala  
Zizipho Sobololo  
Zusive Tyantsula

## ECP Volunteer managers/partners

Anna Talbot  
Diliza Hobongwana  
Joyce Sewry  
Khanyisa Ngoqo  
Kim Weaver  
Kjetil Torp  
Lindisipho Swaartbooi  
Lungisa Klaas  
Margaret Ngcangca  
Martha Thompson  
Maso Nduna  
Mpumi Frans  
Mrs Mkontwana  
Nokuthula Daweti  
Nolubabalo Makombe  
Noluvuyo Magagula  
Nosi Ngqwala  
Sindi Dingana  
Siya Dayisi  
Sophumelela Ketelo  
Tammy Smith  
Thandiswa Nqowana  
Thozamile Ngeju  
Veliswa Mdaka  
Zandile Gxala  
Zuko Gqadavama

## ECP student leaders

Asakhe Cuntsulana  
Bennita Benza  
Devron Plaatjies  
Khanyisile Gqubule  
Kwakhanya Mafu  
Liivha Rasimphi  
Lindeka Namba  
Lineo Fumanisa  
Lukhanyiso Cezula  
Mantone Malikhetla  
Mpambo Wina  
Mpho Magidi  
Nanza Platana  
Nobesuthu Mnkandla  
Nompumelelo Tshabalala  
Ongezwa Sombava  
Otja Muruko  
Phumelela Masabalala  
Ronewa Ntsieni  
Sacree Kabeya



Sisipho Ndibaza  
Siwongiwe Giyama  
Thabiso Nxumalo  
Thanyani Mudau  
Theodore Duxbury  
Tholinhlanhla Sukazi  
Ubenathi Sisusa  
Wezizwe Ginidza  
Xiletelo Mabasa  
Ziyabukwa Nyala





# Community Engagement Certificates



## Vulindlela volunteers

Ayabonga Qhubani  
Daniel Proestos  
Demazane Nkosi  
Kalita Van Zijl  
Kay-Lynn Wright  
Khanyisa Tyolo  
Lorah Dzimwasha  
Lorraine Tadya  
Lungelo Khoza  
Njabulo Dlamini  
Nobesuthu Mnkandla  
Samkelisiwe Mhlongo  
Sandile Masanabo  
Solofelang Matshidiso  
Tendai Muronzi  
Unarine Mugogovhali  
Viwe Jwaqu  
Zandile Situlweni

## Vulindlela staff assistants

Thembakazi Ngoqo  
Roxana Chiappa Baros

## Tutor short course

Alungile Jeme  
Anelisiwe Msweli  
Annah Mthombeni  
Asher Pearce  
Avumile Yeko  
Ayabonga Qhubani  
Charmone Gogoba  
Daniel Proestos  
Demazane Nkosi  
Derel Maswanganyi  
Emma Cole  
Gcina Ngcongco  
Geradon Jantjies  
Hlumelo Qwakanisa  
Julian Yeates  
Kalita van Zijl  
Kay-Lynn Wright  
Kayolla Khoromana  
Khanyisa Tyolo  
Lorah Rutendo Dzimwasha  
Lorraine Tadya  
Matshidiso Solofelang  
Moleleki Morapeli  
Mpho Magidi

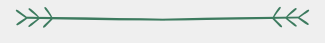
Mpho Selemogo  
Njabulo Dlamini  
Njabulo Ntuli  
Nobesuthu Mnkandla  
Nomvuyo Mabusela  
Noxolo Manyati  
Pamela Manyala  
Phiwokuhle Hadebe  
Phumelela Masabalala  
Rodney Simba Tholanah  
Ronewa Ntsieni  
Samkelisiwe Mhlongo  
Sande Mkansi  
Sandile Masanabo  
Sebatane Pule  
Sibulele Sikhemane  
Sicelo Mpatlanyane  
Sizile Mbenya  
Someleze Mbele  
Tendai Muronzi  
Unakho Mhlauli  
Unarine Mugogovhali  
Viwe Jwaqu  
Vusimani Kubhayi  
Wiya Leon Masudu  
Xolisa Jeki  
Yanga Bumka  
Zenande Landu  
Ziyabukwa Nyala

## Vuka Makana

Mbongwa Cebisile  
*Access and Success in Education*  
Dominique Santos  
*Nutrition and food security*  
Helen Hollemen  
*Less Waste and Recycling and Resource use*  
Khaliphane Moyo  
*Leadership and Systems*







# Award Citations



## **SPORTS CLUB/ SOCIETY OF THE YEAR**

### ***Rhodes University Mountain Club***

The Mountain Club has been a finalist in the category of CE club of the year several times in previous years, so it would take a huge effort to prove their worth as a finalist in this category again. The Mountain Club of 2020 truly, rose to this challenge in very difficult times.

Despite the challenges that 2020 posed, the club has critically and innovatively positioned CE as a core function of their club, even more so during the pandemic. CE is embedded as one of the clubs 'offerings' that adds value to their members' experience and creates a more inclusive atmosphere to the club. Similarly, their constitution has changed to ensure that a CE Rep must have RUCCE recognized CE experiences and two CE reps were elected onto the committee this year. These two CE Reps demonstrated a wealth of knowledge and commitment and were thoroughly supported by their committee.

The Mountain Club has had a sustained relationship with the Grahamstown Scout Group for 6 years. The COVID-19 pandemic proved no challenge to this relationship! Prior to lockdown, the club hosted their first overnight hike with over 26 teenage [boy] scouts. This event was the most well attended CE club event the club has ever hosted.

During the lockdown, they focused on community building amongst their own club members, who were scattered around the country. A three-week, virtual challenge encouraged members in teams to get healthy and outdoors and share their experiences. The various outdoor challenges were based on the Sustainable Development Goals and the ultimate team prize was a donation to a Makhanda COVID relief cause, in which food packages were donated to ECD centers who took a significant knock during the lockdown.

With the close relationships volunteers formed with the scouts, this year couldn't end without a final send off and so the committee organized a local (COVID-safe) climbing event at Craig Doone.

## **COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR**

### ***GADRA Education***

The complexities of this year have caused all of us to re-think education. For GADRA this has meant a significant change to the virtual world. The current digital divide in our country has caused programme leaders to think innovatively about the implementation of their programmes, by using low-cost media and continuous volunteer development. The GADRA team has been vocal during lockdown, negotiating, reinventing and actively finding alternative ways to rescue the schooling year for many. They have worked tirelessly and creatively to keep their programmes going and servicing our community in the face of many adverse challenges that this year brought.







# Award Citations



A credit to the support and persistence of the organisation this year is the 30 (and rising) students who have already applied to Rhodes; some of whom are already provisionally accepted. And the number of Bachelor level passes in the Nine Tenths Mentoring programme that have increased to 70 this year from 40 at the start of the year.

GADRA’s success must be owed to the warmth of their relationships with pupils and students, their firm focus on social justice and their commitment to Community-University partnerships. It is apt then to end this citation with an excerpt from the award nomination made by a Rhodes student, “Gadra made sure that mentors were able to reach their mentees and wanted to make sure that everyone is being accommodated and not to be left out. Hence Gadra’s resilience and courage to continue, and work during the pandemic is one of the many reasons that I have nominated Gadra.”

## STUDENT RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR

### ***Nosiseko Mtati***

Nosiseko Mtati is conducting her MEd research part-time, her second masters, while she is also the Catchment Co-ordinator of the Tsitsa Project. In this dual role, she not only conducts community engaged research to build new knowledge, but also actively practices leadership in community engagement through her role as Catchment Co-ordinator.

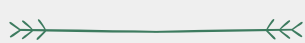
The two-fold overall aim of the MEd study is: 1) to inform the training and management of environmental monitors in this NRM programme, and 2) to inform environmental monitoring programmes in general, as potentially important learning opportunities for all stakeholders involved. Her research informs her own practice, and through it she promotes principles of good community engagement practice in the Tsitsa Project and in wider NRM programmes funded and supported by DEFF across the country.

Ms. Mtati has demonstrated a deep sense of commitment, humility and care in her work with the communities in the Tsitsa river catchment. Her academic research as a young scholar is innovative, relevant and builds much-needed knowledge to support community engagement in the context of natural resource management. She is therefore a deserving candidate for Finalist of the Student Researcher of the Year Award in Community Engagement.

### ***Samridhi Sharma***

Samridhi Sharma has been involved in community-engaged research for Health Promotion since 2014 as part of her BPharm degree up until her current PhD degree. This includes the development of health information leaflets, posters, role plays, and games on diabetes, alcohol use, and AMR for Rhodes University support staff as well as for schools in Makhanda. As part of her fourth year BPharm research project, Samridhi developed three health information leaflets on ‘alcohol abuse’ with Rhodes University Support Staff and Peer Educators. Samridhi’s PhD research expanded from the public sector healthcare facilities to the Rhodes University Peer Educators when she upgraded from her MPharm to PhD, further





# Award Citations



developing their work rapport. Samridhi partook in the Faculty of Pharmacy Community Engagement Programme (CEP) in 2016 and is currently a Facilitator for the same. She is now the youngest Advisory Committee Member for Scifest Africa, which further demonstrates her leadership skills and actions towards collaborative approaches to improve health outcomes.

In March 2020, Samridhi developed a COVID-19 information booklet for low- to semi-literate members to increase awareness and provide prevention measures. For this reason, Samridhi became part of the Rhodes University COVID-19 Science Engagement Team in which she provided insights on the content and poster designs for campaigns. Though this work is not part of her PhD project, such initiatives highlight her leadership, determination, and creativity towards serving the community during this global pandemic. Shamridhi has been active in the scholarship of engagement by publishing 2 articles and presenting at 6 international conferences.

## ***Theodore Orlando Duxbury***

Theodore Orlando Duxbury is a third year PhD candidate in Pharmacy Practice, done in collaboration with the Rhodes University Community Engagement Division. His work addresses health inequalities and facilitates rural health development by promoting epistemic justice, leadership, and health literacy strengthening at Rhodes University and in the Makhanda community.

Throughout his academic career he devoted his time to community engagement and community development, participating in different activities that promote health awareness and health literacy. These activities include lecturing undergraduates, workplace health promotion projects; National Science Festival exhibitions; student volunteering; student wellness; National Science Week workshops; and student mentorships. This all serves to illustrate his motivation and action towards holistically addressing the health and social challenges in Makhanda and the surrounding communities. He recognised that it is time to consider, not only the aspects of medical care but also its social determinants. This serves as the ideal foundation from which a more productive society could be promoted. Collaborations across higher-education departments such as these, not only promote health and social change, it also moulds socially responsible and active healthcare practitioners and citizens. This is a true testament of what can be achieved when two higher education departments collaborate to achieve a strategic objective.

Theo is deeply committed to the research communities in which he spent time building relationships, understanding their lived experiences and responding meaningfully to challenges. This was evident when the Covid 19 Pandemic broke, Theo immediately took it upon himself to run workshops in all the villages in the Amakhala area before lockdown was imposed on us all. He made sure that the communities he had engaged with received the most current and accurate education about the virus that he could provide and that might ensure their safety. Such is the nature of this outstanding scholar – deeply ethical and compassionate.





# Award Citations

## SPECIAL AWARDS FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

***Student Representative Council Leadership: Katlego Mpahlele (President) & Lebohang Makghosi Nkambule (CE Councillor)***

The 2020 SRC has placed at the very heart of their mission, the cultivation of humanity – encouraging students to use their social capital to contribute to community development through the building of mutually beneficial partnerships with the Makhanda community. We started the year with a record number of 2 025 students engaging on a regular basis with the community through service learning and volunteer programmes. These large numbers had everything to do with this SRC team inspiring and encouraging students to become a part of community engagement at the University. Rather than allowing the pandemic to paralyse this incredible surge of involvement, this team sought alternate ways to contribute to society.

They facilitated virtual workshops with various halls on community engagement and environmental sustainability. Also, for the first time in history the SRC ensured CE visibility through inclusion at various O-week events and even started a series of webinars to address the challenges faced by students when volunteering such as language barriers and time management amongst other concerns. The SRC launched the #RUGrowing project, which aimed to provide skills and ecofriendly ideals of producing their own food through vegetable gardens in schools and in the community. They built on this idea by launching the #PlantedTheSeed, #RiverRescue, #BeachCleanUP and #PlasticFreeJuly amongst other initiatives.

The SRC team brought an energy to the student body which had a clear purpose, fully grasping the CE principles of building relationships and mutually beneficial partnerships, their hand in ensuring good practice was commendable.

The SRC have been led by two remarkable team players, getting behind and driving community engaged learning in ways we could not have imagined – this evening we salute the leadership of Katlego and Lebo – mature, principled and very dynamic and recognize them for a special award of excellence.



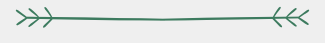
**Katlego and Lebo  
at the SRC  
inauguration.**

## ***Daniel Proestos***

Daniel is a first-time volunteer and best characterised as a passionate educationist. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit South Africa, Daniel knew that many of the learners that he had been tutoring as part of the Vulindlela program would need extra assistance, more than ever before. And so, he took the initiative to make and deliver Grade 12 maths video tutorials that learners could access via their cell phones. Daniel







# Award Citations



sought innovative, open access software and created a large number of videos from lesson planning to editing and distribution – something that must have taken him hours and hours to do. This is a remarkable feat for a first time student having just been introduced to community engagement to have the courage and will to step up to emergency remote teaching too!

Daniel went above and beyond the call of duty by not only making the videos but also being readily available for any additional questions learners may have had. Sending videos seemed to be a huge hit with Daniels’ students. One student even sent Daniel a message saying, “thank you. I honestly feel like videos do it for everyone. I swear I hate reading notes... I think other tutors should do videos as well.”

On the surface, helping a teenager pass his or her final matric exams may seem like a small act, but the impact that such an act may have is incomprehensible. Many of these pupils might be able to further their education and lift their family and future generations out of poverty because of the innovation and commitment of a single student volunteer. The programme Co-ordinator, Thandi Ngowana commented that Daniel has been extraordinary this year finding innovative ways to communicate and keep the pupils stimulated with educational resources during the lockdown period so that they kept up with their studies. A combination of compassion, support and educational materials kept the pupils on track.

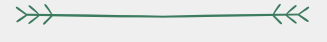
The RUCE office is very excited by the innovations and impact made by Daniel in one year and wish to acknowledge him for a year of excellence. He is a scholar to watch going forward.

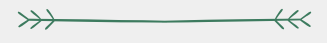


Makhanda citizens log their Vuka Makana hours for their river clean ups









# Award Citations



## ***Lebogang Makghoshi Nkambule***

Lebo has served as a diligent CE Rep in Atherstone house since her second year at Rhodes. Through the inspiration of what she learnt in this position she went on to initiate her own mentorship programme that encourages school learners to implement sustainable change solutions to community challenges. The programme is now in its third year of providing academic and social support to matriculants at Nombulelo High School.

Her dedication to CE has been recognised through many accolades: in 2018 her hall won the CE Hall of the year award, in the same year she received the community engagement top 10 award for excellence in community engagement, the Investec Top 100 for excellence in community engagement and the Jan Smuts hall excellence in Community Engagement consecutively. And so, it was no surprise that in 2019 she was elected as the 2020 SRC Community Engagement Councillor and more recently the 2021 SRC President.

In her capacity as the SRC CE Councillor she has implemented innovative, wide-spread awareness-raising campaigns, worked collaboratively with the RUCE office and fellow Councillors to infuse CE into the university structures. Her dynamic and charismatic leadership and depth of understanding of CE has encouraged large numbers of students to be involved in CE programmes.

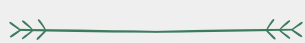
## ***Emma Wagenaar***

Emma's nomination captures 2020 wonderfully saying, "Nothing worked out the way I intended it to, but in the end, everything worked out perfectly." For Emma, 2020 was a year of exponential growth. Her experiences leading up to 2020 had positioned her for a full year of community-based experiential learning. Despite the complications of this year, she has shown resilience, unbridled ambition, and relentless passion for CE. Her ability to embrace the change has given her the opportunity to deeply theorise and reflect on her context and career opportunities aligned to CE.

Emma has been a member of the Student Society, Inkwenkwezi since 2018 and has served on their committee for the last two years. In her role as chairperson this year she has led by example, completing all three of the courses RUCE offered during the lockdown and even found time to encourage fellow members to find opportunities to serve their community; wherever they were. As the CE Rep of the Kite surfing and Sailing Club she has shown commitment to the implementation and sustainability of CE projects from previous years and collaboratively planned initiatives for her year of tenure. She has also been part of the Fort England Buddy programme and an active BuddingQ leader and student trainer.

In her own words "2020 was the year I needed to grow as a student volunteer at Rhodes University, and I am excited for the future." As she should be, along with selecting to do an engaged research masters in 2021, Emma has been re-elected as the CE Rep for the Kite surfing and Sailing Club as well as elected to serve on the Student Sports Council Executive as CE Rep.





# Award Citations



## ***Bennita Tanaka Benza***

Bennita has been a registered student volunteer since her first year at Rhodes in 2018. In 2019, she became a mentor at GADRA, where she assisted grade 12 repeat matriculants under the Engaged Citizen Program. This year she is a student leader at GADRA. She has also worked with Grade 6 pupils as a tutor for english and mathematics at Archie Mbolekwa Primary School.

Bennita has been the Drostdy Hall Community Engagement Rep, a portfolio she took seriously. She organised many initiatives to raise funds for their community partner organisation and encouraged participation by all. Here, she worked closely with Noncedo pre-school in the Siyakana eMakana programme to boost school infrastructure and assist with school readiness programmes. She successfully spearheaded the residences' involvement in these projects and the hall was a finalist in the RUCCE awards in 2019.

During the pandemic Bennita has shown, that leadership requires adaptability and courage, two qualities she has displayed, by continuing to volunteer even during difficult times. On her own initiative she learnt to sew and hand-stitched several children's facemasks for the 1000 masks campaign earlier this year and as the president of the Golden Key society she has mobilised students (scattered around the country) to work with their partners towards achieving sustainable development goals.

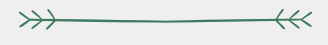
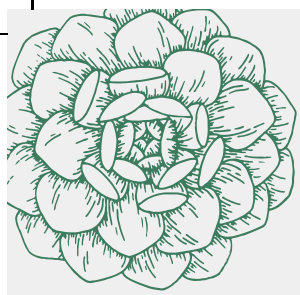
## ***Londeka Zulu***

Londeka has been a committed volunteer for 3 years. Her first volunteering escapade was in the Engaged Citizen Programme at the Jabez Centre where she worked closely with community partners and fellow volunteers to address the environmental issues around the center. Her experiences there leapfrogged her to embed herself in the education sector. She has been a volunteer at both ends of the education spectrum, a mentor in the Nine Tenths Matric Mentoring Programme and a Budding Q volunteer and leader in Grade R.

Such a broad range of experience has helped Londeka gain the contextual understanding of the assets and challenges in the communities she works with, which has substantially led to the successes in her volunteerism and leadership. Despite the challenges of 2020, Londeka has shown initiative, dedication, determination, and has stayed devoted throughout the year. As a leader in the BuddingQ Programme, she had the difficult task of facilitating sessions at CM Vellem, one of the largest schools of the programme and often the most dynamic groups.

She has engaged with several of the online opportunities in the BuddingQ programme and more than 80% of her group have received certificates as a result of her encouragement. As a volunteer in 9/10ths Programme, she has worked against all odds to mentor her mentees virtually, one of which has already been provisionally accepted to Rhodes. Her nomination concludes "I am honoured to be part of the change...all by doing something I wanted to do."





# Award Citations



## ***Luyanda Hadebe***

Since her teenage years, Luyanda has sought experiences as a positive change agent to contribute to South Africa's transformation. Her humility and gentle leadership probably leaves her extensive CE CV unnoticed by many. Luyanda has been involved in CE since she enrolled at Rhodes University. In her first year she joined the Khanya Science and Maths Clubs and her Residence Reading Programme. She also joined the Engaged Citizen Programme as a volunteer at the Home of Joy, where she served for two years, a space she often called her second home.

In her second year she joined the 9/10ths Mentoring Programme and was also elected as a CE Rep in the Sisulu Residence. From 2019-2020 she continued as an ECP volunteer at Ulwazi and as a 9/10ths student leader. Luyanda's wealth of experience is evident in her leadership. As a student leader for Nine Tenths, she is often seen sitting alongside fellow mentors working through a problem with care and compassion. Simply put, she exemplifies 'teamwork' ensuring a better outcome for all.

Her four years of persistent and extensive dedication to Community Engagement at Rhodes is admirable and characteristic of Luyanda's dedication to effecting change, in her own words she writes "I have a zeal for seeing positive change in my community and working hard to make that happen." She has indeed brightened her corner here in Makhandla.

## ***Uthandile Samela***

According to Uthandile, volunteerism has never been something she has seen as separate from herself, instead, it is embedded in who and how she lives her life. She has been part of RUCE since her first year in 2018 and in 2019 was a Top 10 finalist for the quantum of involvement in Rhodes CE programmes. Prior to lockdown she regularly attended her residence reading programme at Cozy Nest and was registered for the grade 7s English programme at Fikizolo Primary School. Although these interactions were short-lived due to lockdown; this did not deter her and instead she registered and completed the CE courses on RUConnected where she demonstrated the alignment of her personal, community-based values and her academic work.

Uthandile has been an active student leader in BuddingQ for a large group of volunteers at NV Cewu Primary School. Leadership required her to not only show passion for literacy and children, but deep commitment and grit to keep herself and others in her team motivated. Uthandile's colleagues described her as approachable, friendly, gentle, a good listener, encouraging, and open to criticism. These qualities have made her an apt spokesperson for the programme this year. As a linguistics student and a knowledgeable (community) engaged student she speaks eloquently about the injustices of the education system and equally so, the role students can play to enhance societal transformation.

This year, Uthandile has balanced her involvement as a leader and volunteer in both ECP and BuddingQ Programmes with competence and grace.







# Award Citations



## ***Sydney Nel***

Inkwenkwezi is a student led Community Engagement Society that facilitates early-grade literacy development. Sydney, as a linguistics student and avid literacy advocate has been part of the society for four years. She has played a significant role in the longevity of the student society.

2018 was a year of change for the society and in a moment of crisis, Sydney stepped up to the role of Chairperson; ultimately saving the society. Her ability to embrace this change and motivate the society's committee was a courageous feat that will have a lasting impact. The society now has over 50 members and has dedicated the last two years to refining and implementing their literacy development model and has creatively restructured the committee so that it is composed of positions that ensure sustainability, one such role is advocacy and volunteer training, which Sydney occupies with pride and an action-filled resolve.

In her own capacity she aligns her studies with her passion for CE and pursues opportunities that help her understand the alignment between these aspects of her life. This year, when face-to-face volunteering came to a halt with lockdown, she took the time to understand the theoretical aspects of CE through the courses offered through RUCE. In these courses she demonstrated a deep understanding of her own context, South Africa's literacy crisis and her role as a social change agent in social justice issues. Sydney characterizes Rhodes's motto 'where leaders learn' in her ability to think deeply, act bravely and commit wholeheartedly to the transformation of public education in our city.

## ***Claire McCann***

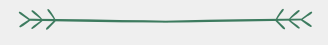
Claire is not the first person you will notice in the room, she is quietly spoken and it takes a little while before you get the full measure of her ability. She mostly starts conversations through enquiry, always interested in others and in learning through others. She brings a moral authority and dignity to any space she leads as well as a deep commitment to the transformation of this country, her thoughtful and generous character, her intellect and her clarity of thought.

As a mentor, tutor and leader in the high school space; over the last 4 years Claire has exemplified what it means to walk a journey with pupils. In 2016 and 2017 she started her own journey at GADRA as a mentor and later joined the 9/10ths Programme from 2019. It is interesting to note that three of the students Claire mentored have gone on to study at Rhodes University and she has maintained relationships with all of them. Claire also undertook the role of the Community Engagement representative for the Mountain Club, where initiates and coordinates a very active local Scouts group.

Claire is never vocal about her community engagement activities, but it is known that outside of the formal RUCE programmes she motivated her family to sew and contribute 100 children's facemasks over lockdown, made videos for RUCE archives and also offered regular tutoring and mentoring to Transnet pupils.

Her unique ability to apply her theoretical knowledge to the context has opened up a new scholarly opportunity - that of writing and publishing about her community engagement journey, an exciting coherence between teaching and learning, community engagement and research. Claire has recently been named a Rhodes Mandela Scholar and we have no doubt that her community engagement portfolio will have strengthened her application. Claire has embraced the Rhodes University experience in its fullness, carefully and deliberately choosing opportunities where she can meaningfully effect deep and lasting social change.





# 2020 Highlights



The Covid 19 pandemic has wrought unprecedented devastation on all human life and destroyed many economies across the globe. The 2020 year started with heightened levels of excitement and large numbers of students enrolling for community engaged learning programmes, the Rhodes Community Engagement team was ready and the course work and placement of students got underway. Then came the announcement of the President – lockdown and no face to face engagement, nothing could have prepared us for this but in RUCE style, we did not let what we can't do, interfere with what we can do – so we galvanised into action seeing the opportunity it presented for meaningful engagement.

We reimagined Community Engagement as a core function of the university, we mastered technologies for the introduction of online CE modules, we called on the various science departments to step with us into the crisis, we relied heavily on our community – university partnerships to run education campaigns, food security initiatives, the making and supply of PPE to essential services and schools, online psychosocial support, the production of academic content to support school pupils at home, community kitchen support, food garden interventions amongst other responses. We have worked around the clock and what a productive journey it has been, allow me to share some of the impact.



Jo Bezerra hands out Grocott's Mail during the pandemic

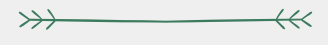
We are very grateful to our Donor Partners who stuck with us in these difficult times, supporting us as we navigated new ways of reaching those who were hurting most. Standard Bank and GBS Bank partnered with the ECD Forum and RUCE and have funded the installation of 54 water tanks in 43 Preschools in Makana and Ndlambe Municipality, a much needed resource during the pandemic. For the VC's Reviving Public schools initiative, we welcomed the Standard Bank, Tutuwa Trust who have committed to three years of funding,

BPSA has committed to 2 years, the Davies Foundation has funded us for 5 years, the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust for 3 years. Without you, this impact report would just not be the same – a sincere thank you for your compassion and investment in our community.

Over the past 5 years, RUCE has been driving the creation of third spaces to enable and grow Community/University partnerships – the formation of HUBS has brought cohesion and coordination in our community, all working to bridge the digital divide and more specifically – the Social Innovation HUB on campus has a focus on innovation, healing and digital storytelling, the ADC Hub in Joza has a focus on post schooling and social entrepreneurs and the third is the Joza Youth Hub, which has a focus on after school education support programmes for children.

This social innovation hub is the youngest of the 3rd spaces and was the outcome of a very exciting research partnership between 5 European Universities and 6 South African Universities in a project called the Common Good First Initiative, the brainchild of Glasgow Caledonian University in Scotland.





# 2020 Highlights cont.



**Research:** The number of research outputs from the Community Engagement Division has grown exponentially this year, our researchers are publishing in high impact international Journals. We have boosted our research team with four new Academics – Research Associates, Dr Sharli Paphitis and Dr Margie Maistry, NGAP Appointment, Thandi Ngowana, and newly appointed Dr Rene Oosthuizen who joins us from Stenden University. The 2019 Vice Chancellor’s Distinguished Award Medal for Community Engagement was awarded to the dynamic Human Kinetics and Ergonomics team of Dr Jonathan Davy, Andrew Todd and Dr Ben Ryan.

An exciting development on the research front is the launch of the UNESCO Knowledge for Change K4C Hub at Rhodes on the 2nd November. This is a partnership with Durban University of Technology. The Knowledge for Change (K4C) Consortium is a global initiative of the UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education, under the joint directions of Dr. Budd Hall (University of Victoria, Canada) and Dr. Rajesh Tandon (PRIA, India). This is an initiative to train the next generation of mentors and leaders in Community Based Research (CBR).

In the teaching and learning space, RUCE has continued to pioneer new ways of strengthening Service-Learning (SL) within Rhodes and across South Africa. The RUCE accredited online Community-Based Service-Learning course was over subscribed in 2020 with academics from over 6 Universities registering and completing the course. This course has successfully equipped academics with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills to create sustainable courses in partnership with community based organisations in order to improve knowledge exchange programs at the university and foster a new generation of engaged Rhodes graduates.

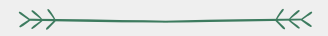
Another exciting new development in Student Volunteerism, was the launch of the first online short courses around the philosophy and theories of community engagement, we were delighted with the student’s response – 515 students chose to participate and completed the course.



Theo Duxbury & Thandie Ngowana run public health workshops with the Amakhala communities







# 2020 Highlights cont.



There are 45 Community Partner organisations in Makhanda that participating in the 6 volunteer programmes and we thank them for receiving our student volunteers and the care they take in supporting their development. A first for us this year was a Community Partner organisation enrolling for one of the CE theory courses - 15 bachelor students from the College of Transfiguration are currently in the final stages of completing the course.

The Corvid Pandemic has wreaked havoc in the schooling sector, we are still to see the effects of this lost year of teaching and learning. The RUCE staff and student volunteers dug deep to make sure they were able to reach the pupils and show some support to the school leadership in Makhanda. In the high schools the tutoring and mentoring continued right through lockdown. It was more challenging to reach the younger children, but working through parents proved successful. An ECD WhatsApp initiative conceptualized and implemented by RUCE saw over 1000 parents receiving beautifully designed educational material in three languages daily for their children.

A highly successful partnership with GADRA Education, Faculty of Education and 4 high schools resulted in another successful year for the Nine Tenths Programme . Tonight we are awarding 91 RU mentors short course certificates. This qualification demands high levels of commitment: over 100 hours of work! This is the most we've awarded in any year and a testament to the dedication and commitment by student volunteers in very trying times. Student Mentors managed to keep the programme on track throughout lockdown for 183 Grade 12 mentees. In 2021, a Train the Trainer Nine Tenths programme will be offered to other interested Universities nationally.

213 student volunteers qualified for the Engaged Citizens programme certificate, 53 qualified for the Tutor Orientation course certificate and another 11 students qualified for the CE Reading Clubs Orientation course certificate.

The Vulindlela Programme targets our own staff at Rhodes in grades 1-6 and their school going children. Intensive support has continued online with 24 Rhodes Student Volunteers participating, 28 parents and 32 learners on board. 8 of the 12 Matrics have applied to RU because they meet the criteria. The journalism 3rd years have been an integral part of this programme.

We initiated a partnership with CSD, Department of Health and Social Development and the ECD Forum to assist Preschools open their doors once Lockdown level 1 was announced. We managed to get 52 of the 60 pre-schools up and running again.

In closing, we have been very blessed to have an SRC Council that is deeply invested and has walked the CE journey with us. This dynamic 2020 Council understand the power of community engagement to address issues of social justice and to promote transformation in our students and staff while making a strategic contribution to the development of our community – watch this leadership – our future is in good hands.

***Di Hornby***





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



THE OPPENHEIMER MEMORIAL TRUST

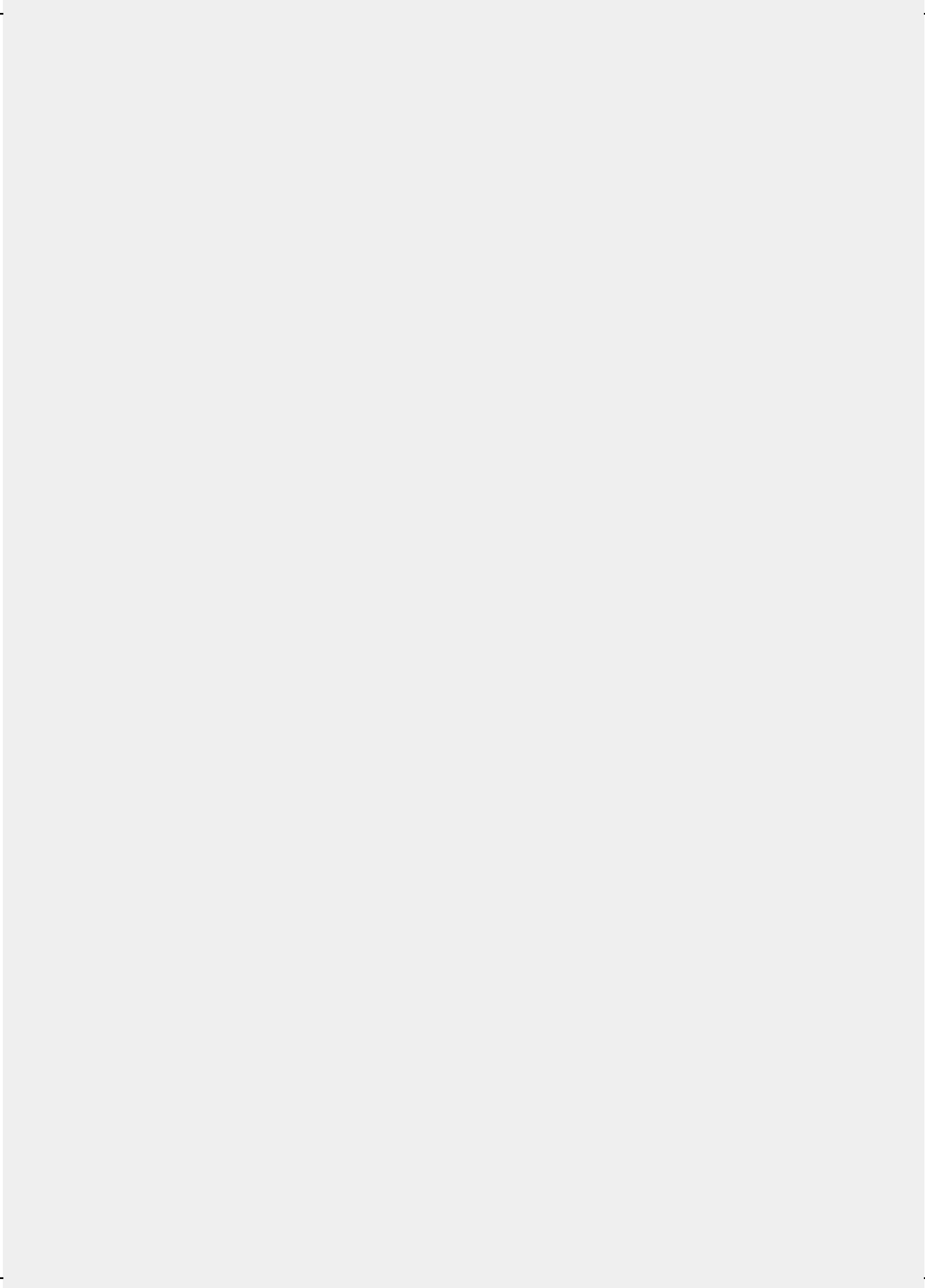


# *Celebrating a year of excellence and resilience*



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*Where leaders learn*







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*Where leaders learn*