**Faculty of Pharmacy – CE report- 12 August 2016**

1. Ms. Lynnette van Dyk and Dr. Carmen Oltmann assisted **St Mary’s Development Care Center** (on invitation to help them) during one morning to weigh and measure the children (assessed the primary school children). Identified during this assessment one abused little girl – could report to the staff of the facility, because the girl identified an older sister at home who abuses her (treated the situation with confidentiality).
2. **30th July 2016: National Science Week Open Day report**

Eastern Cape learners attending the NSW Open Day on the final weekend of July were treated to an interactive workshop experience hosted by the Rhodes University Faculty of Pharmacy. The workshop, led by Prof. Sunitha Srinivas and her post graduates, Mr. Theodore Duxbury and Ms. Praise Marara, introduced learners to the growing health threat posed by non-communicable diseases (NCDs) as well as to the dangers posed by the four major, and modifiable, lifestyle risk factors rapidly contributing to their epidemic spread: physical inactivity; unhealthy diets; and irresponsible use of alcohol and tobacco products. Learners were also taught about the need for more health care practitioners, and were exposed to the various roles pharmacists could adopt as agents of health promotion, other than the traditional role as drug dispenser, in order to promote health justice and wellness. They were also given hands-on experience and were shown how to take blood pressure readings. These sessions with anatomical models, posters, health information leaflets and word search games were designed to be contextually relevant to learners’ experiences and culturally sensitive to their lived realities in order to make the information relatable.

After the session, participants were asked to provide written feedback on their experiences. The learners’ responses being overwhelmingly positive. Most learners recognised that “Non-communicable diseases are not really known and we should spread the word.” Among the 23 comments selected from 32 participants who attended these sessions, 91% of the respondents reported learning something new about their own health, with 60% admitting to learning about the dangers of alcohol abuse and tobacco consumption for the first time. One learner wrote: “This section is very important to me because it warns me not to smoke or drink because my body will be damaged” while another reported that they “learned that you don’t drink and drive”. A further 13% also commented that they had not realised the dangers of a lack of exercise and that healthy diets were important: “I learned that we don’t have to eat junk food all the time because it affects our health.” 40% of the learners reported that they had gleaned important information for their future career choices, actively claiming that they were “inspired to tell more people” about what they had learned. Encouraging the active promotion and spread of health awareness and health-related information is a goal of any health promotion activity, so these unsolicited comments are heartening.

One of the three groups had the added advantage of having a teacher-in-training accompanying them. She was able to bridge the communication gaps. She ascribed the success of the event to the “excellent job” the Pharmacy students did “explaining things in details and in terms the learners could understand,” showing that any health-related information outreach project should be tailored to meet the demands of its audience by providing pertinent information in culturally sensitive ways.

1. **Trading Live events**

Led by Prof. Sunitha Srinivas and her post graduates, Mr. Theodore Duxbury and Ms. Praise Marara, the Trading Live opportunity to interact with school learners was used to highlight Youth leadership and career talk for high school learners at Archie Mbolekwa Senior Primary School and Ikamva Youth Organisation. Mr. Niall Borland, the Faculty Manager assisted with required logistics.

1. **Career talk and youth leadership**

The Faculty of Pharmacy responded to the opportunity of career talk and youth leadership by addressing the Eastern Cape learners coming from previously disadvantaged schools. Ms. Buyi Mzamane from the Student recruitment team organised the annual special visit to the Rhodes Campus. The top ten learners nominated from each school and who are interested to study further particularly at Rhodes attended this session. Mr Theodore Duxbury and Mr. Siyabonga Melamane were mentored by Prof. Srinivas and Dr. Clint Veale to deliver this 30 minutes interactive session to raise awareness of current health challenges in South Africa and how the learners could consider studying health sciences. Prof. Rod Walker’s assistance in providing the presentation on ‘One degree, many careers’ is acknowledged.