Empowering teachers & learners through ICT Integration
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Creating learning communities of teachers and learners using ICT’s

SchoolNet SA has a reputation for providing course materials of substance and quality that is top quality and useful for teachers and education managers. Through its specialised training, SchoolNet endeavours to enrich learning processes which transform the way learning happens.

Teacher ICT development is not a product; it is a lifelong investment in the future of education. SchoolNet SA has the experience and expertise to add value to this investment. SchoolNet SA works together with the private sector, universities and provincial government departments as partners in planning and implementing teacher ICT development programs.

Why ICT Integration?

ICT integration is a widely misunderstood term that refers specifically to the effective use of technology across the curriculum. With the help of technology, learners can master 21st Century learning skills. These skills include thinking, communicating, collaborating, problem-solving, information skills and being able to direct your own learning.

Current SchoolNet SA Initiatives:

• Intel® Teach
• Microsoft® Partners in Learning
• Vodacom Foundation
• Standard ICT Adult Literacy
• Nokia Mobile Maths
• Adobe Youth Voices
• Commonwealth Certificate Teacher ICT Honours
• British Council IT hubs
• Siyavula Intelligent Practice

“Professional transformation through effective use of technology across the curriculum.”

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SchoolNet SA History

SchoolNet SA was established as a national organisation due to the efforts of volunteer educators and innovative thinkers in school networking during the 1990s. SchoolNet SA was formally founded in 1997 by the Department of Education’s Centre for Educational Technology and Distance Education with the support of several corporate sponsors. The early projects included training teachers in the Telkom 1000 project, the Open Society Institute for South Africa project and the World Bank’s Links for Development. SchoolNet SA operated as a core-funded project of the Canadian IDRC (International Research and Development Centre) until 2001 when it became a Section 21 non-profit organisation. SchoolNet SA has played an active role in influencing national thinking around education firmly believing that advocacy around the effective use of technology in education is an ongoing outside.

SchoolNet SA Today

SchoolNet SA has always been involved in cutting edge initiatives that use innovative technologies to enhance learning. These programmes and projects currently involve pilot use of cell phones and mobile devices such as Nokia Mobile Maths, A Journey with Tablets as well as the Xbox Kinect for Improving Literacy in the Primary.

In its partnerships, SchoolNet SA is guided by the following principles:

- Non-exclusivity
- Transparency
- Building trust
- Open and honest communication
- Accountability to partners, the mission of SchoolNet and to the teachers and learners who are recipients

- Awareness that this is an emergent process with new technology being introduced and other technologies evolving
- A need to press conclusively that technology can bring about a systemic change in the education system
- Commitment to the broader goal of improving education — and that this being the core focus guiding all work that we do

“SchoolNet believes in:

- Creating 21st century learning environments
- Courses and events which are meaningful to educators and learners in the classroom
- Developing educators and principals to sustain better teaching, learning and school management
- Learning improvement skills
- Finding appropriate ways to use ICT as a resource to enhance learning
- Helping teachers find innovative ways to make learners take responsibility for their own learning
- Not wasting money by providing technology without any training on its effective use in teaching and learning

SchoolNet strives to:

- Influence decision-making to promote a better education for all
- Assist school leaders to develop the vision to use technology to transform learning
- Support and transform teachers to integrate ICT in meaningful ways
- Provide quality courseware for teacher professional development
- Be the thought leaders for using ICTS in school education
- Empower and support departmental officials, educators and learners in the effective use of innovative technologies
- Maintain excellence in training and project management
- Develop strong support and liaison with schools and provincial education authorities
- Increase numbers of effectively trained teachers integrating ICT

“We are using computers to learn not learning to use computers”
SchoolNet SA has designed a course that explores a range of ways that teachers can use tablets. There are great opportunities for learning to be fun, yet meaningful and structured in a classroom with tablets.

This comprehensive course examines the ways in which tablets can play a role in helping teachers achieve their learning goals.

It is possible to study this course at a distance or alternatively to select modules for face to face training sessions. Participants share their discoveries and quandaries with each other during scheduled online community sessions.

Through its Premier Membership programme, which is free and open to all educators, SchoolNet has been able to establish a strong community of teachers who use ICT to enhance their teaching. This professional development programme comprises interventions such as Teach Meets and Webinars and podcasts to support teachers and use a variety of social media for enhanced communication that include Facebook, Twitter, a blog, newsletter, YouTube channel, slide share tutorials and Diigo network. The Premier membership programme is designed to build up teachers who want to actively pursue more intense programmes of professional development and grow into innovative educators integrating ICT across the curriculum and in the broader school context.

A Journey with Tablets

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Intel Teach is localized for South Africa by SchoolNet and is designed to prepare participating educators to plan projects that promote the effective use of technologies and the Internet in the classroom. Teachers have been using the Intel® Teach programme in South Africa since March 2003 and the content of the course has been updated annually. More recently Intel Teach has designed new courses for teachers that accompany the latest technologies developed by Intel such as the rugged Intel Study Book tablet and the Intel Classmate. When teachers design projects that integrate ICT they are planning classroom experiences that are aligned to the South African national curriculum. Some provinces fund Intel training for their curriculum advisors as well as for ICT coordinators and teachers. Seven out of nine provinces include Intel Teach as an integral, albeit advanced component of their provincial ICT strategy for schools. Intel Teach courses are recognized by SACE (South African Council for Educators) and has formed part of a number of qualifications for teachers at higher education institutions in South Africa.

What does Intel® Teach offer?
• Training for Teachers
• Face-to-face or distance training (depending on the course)
• Skills for designing effective projects
• Advanced ICT integration techniques
• Alignment to the SA curriculum

What is provided by Intel?
• One Intel® Teach resource DVD per educator
• A specialist senior facilitator

What is required from a school or a provincial department of education?
• One device per educator during training
• Preferably an Internet connection

Intel® Teach: Getting Started
This is a very broad-based first course on ICT skills but also includes 21st century teaching and learning skills and approaches, such as student-centred instruction, critical thinking, and collaboration.

Intel® Teach Essentials
This is the most well-known course offered by Intel® Teach and the most rigorous. It guides teachers through effective planning of classroom projects. It emphasises a strong focus question which ensures that learners are challenged to think at higher levels as they process the information that they have gathered during the project. Essentials targets teachers with a basic background in project-based learning and well established ICT skills. This course has been regularly revised and now includes the use of Web 2.0 tools.

Elements consist of four digital learning courses which have been localized for the African context. The model for delivery is a blend of face to face followed by self-study with online tutor support. These courses cater for teachers with existing intermediate ICT skills.

• Project Based Approaches - Introduces teachers to project based approaches for classrooms in a self paced or facilitated interactive experience.
• Collaboration in the Digital Classroom - Helps teachers prepare students to collaborate within and outside the classroom in the digital global world.
• Assessment in 21st Century Classrooms - Introduces teachers to assessment strategies to meet the needs of 21st century learners.
• Thinking Critically with Data - Examines critical thinking with a focus on data analysis helps teachers prepare students to think analytically.

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• Thinking Critically with Data - Examines critical thinking with a focus on data analysis helps teachers prepare students to think analytically.
Collaboration in the Digital Classroom
In this course teachers discover ways to plan and manage student collaboration whether it is within the classroom or with other classrooms or with experts outside of the classroom. Means to assess students engaged in collaborative activities are described as well as ways in which teachers themselves can collaborate.

Assessment in 21st Century Classrooms
This course takes an in-depth look at assessment that meets the needs of 21st century learning. Teachers learn how to plan, develop, and manage student-centered assessment.

Thinking Critically with Data
Teachers explore practical skills and strategies they can use when teaching students to think critically about the information around them. Teachers design student projects and assessments that address critical thinking skills when collecting and analyzing data. They see how technology can support students’ collection, organization, and presentation of information. The course offers practical tips for implementing projects that ask students to think critically with data.

Project Based Approaches
Project based approaches help teachers design activities to engage students with self-directed learning.

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Designing classroom projects that focus on thinking and incorporate online thinking tools.

**Visual Ranking**
Used for ranking items in a list in order of importance; working in pairs or small groups, learners are engaged in deeper thinking and justifying their ranking. The newly revised interface allows interaction with the teacher and with other groups allowing learners to identify and refine the criteria they use to rank a list in order of priority. Here is a screen capture of a sample project:

**Seeing Reason**
Used for investigating cause and effect relationships in a visual mapping format. This results in in-depth analysis of underlying issues.

**Showing Evidence**
Anyone can have an opinion, but backing it up with well-articulated evidence requires careful thinking. The Showing Evidence Tool helps students learn how to construct well-reasoned arguments and prove their cases with credible evidence. Learners have to defend where their evidence comes from and determine how credible it is and how strongly it supports their argument.


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**Intel® Teach Thinking with Technology**

*What is it?*
A basic technology literacy education program that promotes entrepreneurship.

*Who’s it for?*
Adult learners or out-of-school youth with little or no experience with computers.

*What does it teach?*
Participants learn the “basics” of using technology, enabling them to use devices in ways that are relevant to their daily lives.

*What will this enable participants to do?*
Communicate with friends, family and business associates through email, research and access information on the Internet, create CVs, flyers, invitations, budgets, business cards, and documents, presentations, church services and sports programmes, and more.

*What skills will participants learn?*
Through active, hands-on experience, participants learn to explore and use basic applications that are used in everyday life:

- Internet Search
- Email
- Word Processing
- Spreadsheets
- Multimedia

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**Intel® Easy Steps**

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- Internet Search
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- Multimedia
What Microsoft offers teachers and learners:

- A range of carefully planned courses that promote 21st Century Learning among students
- Specifically designed to address all educational ICT concerns of learners, teachers, district officials and technical support personnel
- School-based training where possible
- Support for teachers implementing innovative projects that enhance learning

Microsoft’s Partners in Learning programme is a worldwide initiative in which Microsoft engages with Ministries of Education to assist with the needs of educators in each country. In South Africa, Microsoft is using SchoolNet SA to develop and deliver a range of teacher ICT skills and integration professional development programmes. More than 35 000 educators from all provinces of South Africa have received training since January 2006.

Partners who have either funded training or adopted aspects of the Partners in Learning programme include: Intel, Telkom Foundation, Nelson Mandela Foundation, Oprah Winfrey Foundation, Cisco, Angloplat, Learnet, NEPAD, SETA, MTN, Multichoice, Thutong, Vodacom Foundation, UCT, WITS University, as well as the national and provincial departments of education.

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ICT Integration: WebQuests

The WebQuest course introduces teachers to a simple template for implementing ICT-integrated projects in the classroom. WebQuests are learner-centred and inquiry-based; they promote higher order thinking skills and challenge learners to participate in real-world issues. Learners adopt different perspectives to these issues which forces them to work in teams and think critically. The course is designed to help teachers understand the nature of the WebQuest, find examples online, evaluate them, analyse them and adapt them for their own use. Students learn to take control of their own WebQuests in which they are forced to collaborate and engage analytically with the content.

There are thirty two localised samples and thirty additional examples of WebQuest projects provided in the course materials for teachers with limited connectivity and of course thousands of examples available online. This course is usually conducted over 3 days. Participant teachers are required to bring their own subject resources with them to develop projects that they will use in their lessons.

ICT Skills for Teachers

This introductory ICT skills course provides scenario-based skills training to teachers with limited computer experience at the same time as catering for experienced users. This course focuses on supporting teachers’ roles by catering to their needs and interests, emphasizing the development of independent learning with ICT. Participants’ different levels of confidence and ICT experience are acknowledged which allows for each participant to work on ICT-based scenarios that best suit their skill level, thus making this course suitable for staff development in all schools.

This course usually includes 5 days of training which is split into 2 sessions approximately one month apart. Each training session accommodates one teacher per available computer and Microsoft certificates of participation are provided to participants who complete the course. A similar course, ICT Skills for Principals, provides school principals with ICT skills training in a range of scenarios related to their work as principals.
Peer coaches are trained in communication skills, ICT integration and lesson improvement skills. The training model is designed to grow many peer coaches per school. The course aims to develop a spirit of collaborative peer-to-peer staff support, a critical component of whole-school staff development. Peer coaches provide ongoing peer support to maintain teachers’ motivation and confidence in their integration of ICTs. Through the Peer Coaching approach schools are able to sustain higher levels of ICT integration amongst large numbers of educators rather than investing in just one “ICT champion”. This is a specialised course that requires participants nominated by their schools to be ICT-literate and to have access to the Internet.

Schools commit to the programme for several years. Each year the course consists of eight days of face-to-face training spread over a year with several online activities that are completed in between sessions. A school can nominate up to 3 coaches per cycle. After a few years schools have a large number of peer coaches.

The course activities for the training are centred on the 3 pillars of peer coaching which are:

- Lesson design
- Coaching skills
- ICT integration
Partners in Learning Forum

The Microsoft Partners in Learning Forum aims to recognize innovative teachers who are using ICT in engaging ways to promote teaching and learning. Teachers from South Africa and Lesotho compete on an annual basis to take part at regional and worldwide levels of the forum. This competition is aimed at teachers who are using technology to enhance learning activities or as part of project-based activities. The Forum rewards creative and dynamic teachers with great prizes and provides them with an opportunity to share their ideas with like-minded teachers.

For more information about the Innovative Teachers Forum Awards and details of the current competition’s entry requirements and closing date, please visit the SchoolNet website – http://www.schoolnet.org.za/itf

Comments from Innovative Teachers finalists:

• “From the depths of my heart I would like to sincerely thank you for the wonderful initiative and amazing enthusiasm by which you gave recognition to teachers who really have done more than their fair share in education.”

• “I like the spirit of learning andtitreme to think out of the square. I would like to enter again because I meet with the most wonderful of people that showcase teaching so positively.”
What is the CCTII?

The Commonwealth Certificate for Teacher ICT Integration (CCTI) is a qualification at an Advanced Certificate in Education level for teachers, school leaders and teacher trainers wishing to focus on technology integration into school management, teaching and learning. The certificate is based on the very successful Educators’ Network which has been offered by SchoolNet SA in many African countries since 2001.

The CCTII aims to improve teachers’ experience of teaching with ICT in the classroom and increases educators’ involvement in leading ICT implementation in their institutions. It challenges educators to constantly reflect on what they do in their institutions and classrooms and how ICT can be integrated into their evolving management and teaching styles.

The CCTI qualification is designed as a distance course for school-level educators and teacher trainers. It is Open Courseware that COL and SchoolNet SA are making available to teacher training institutions throughout the Commonwealth.

The CCTII model

- **Activities Driven**
  Activities are at the centre of the modules and guides teachers to read supporting content, plan and implement classroom activities, reflect on practice and share their classroom experiences with their group.

- **Classroom/school context**
  The all-important context of learning is the educator’s institution and their subject needs. These are specifically identified by the teachers themselves during the modules. The activities and content do not focus on any specific context but often use examples to illustrate a point. Educators’ own contexts and experiences are shared as an important contribution to the course content.

- **Uses ICT as a tool in the workplace**
  The emphasis is on how teachers and learners use ICT as a tool and integrate ICT into teaching and learning. The focus is not on computer skills or the technology but rather on the pedagogy.

- **Community of learners**
  The educators or students share their experiences with a group of colleagues online, using email groups and other online collaboration tools.

- **Sharing Classroom experiences**
  This course involves trying out new ideas in the classroom, reflecting on them and then sharing thoughts about them with a group of colleagues online. Discussions revolve around contemplating changes and possibly implementing new teaching methodology in classrooms.

Structure

**Course entry requirements**

- Students must have an initial teacher qualification to enter the course
- It is highly recommended that students are practicing teachers
- Students must be at least moderately computer literate and be able to perform basic office skills, browse the internet and use email

**Modules**

**Core modules**

- Learning, teaching and thinking with ICT
- ICT in schools
- The roles of the educator
- Assessing ICT Integration

**Elective modules**

- Finding, Evaluating and Developing Digital Subject Resources
- Project Approaches to Learning with ICT
- Assessing in the Connected Classroom
- Managing Learning and Teaching with ICT
- ICT leadership in schools
- ICT planning for schools

**The Model**

- Materials are CD based and online allowing participants from countries with low bandwidth
- Local tutor support can be provided via email/internet
- Teachers work in collaborative groups
- Shared experiences among educators – discussions around actual practice
- No visits to a physical campus

**Assessment**

- No examinations
- Submission of assignments
- Portfolio assessment
Who is this course for?
This programme has been developed by SchoolNet SA for use in the non-formal education sector. This course is aimed at high school learners, out of school youth and adult community members who will be using computers for the first time.

Where will training take place?
Training can take place at schools, community centres or suitably equipped central venues. Participants will be given access to Acrobat Reader and Artrage, a free vector graphics programme. Participants should try to have access to a digital camera and a scanner.

What will participants receive?
Participants will each receive 12 workshops in which they will work in groups and provide community services through their ICT skills. An accredited certificate of achievement or a certificate of participation will be awarded upon completion of the course.

Materials
Materials can be supplied on CD and online at: http://schoolnet.org.za/sizanani2007/

Model
The most effective model is when training takes place over several weeks using 2 - 4 hours per day.

This training involves using the computer to produce artifacts for organisations or teams to which the group members belong. Through producing useful documents, that are meaningful and relevant in the community, trainees will be encouraged to see the benefits of using ICTs.

For example, one activity involves designing a logo. This involves learning about how to draw pictures, take photographs and find images on the internet. Once the logo has been created, participants are then encouraged to use this logo to produce business cards and a letterhead for an organisation in the community.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Name - Description</th>
<th>Target participants</th>
<th>Duration, Model approx. cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journey with Tablets</td>
<td>Teachers, principals and e-learning coordinators</td>
<td>Blended learning 40 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and Usage of ICTs in Public Schools</td>
<td>Principals, deputies, HODs, school ICT coordinators, district e-learning officials and SGB members</td>
<td>3 days of face-to-face training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Microsoft Partners in Learning: ICT Leadership for Education Managers</td>
<td>Principals, deputies, HODs, school ICT coordinators, district e-learning officials and SGB members</td>
<td>3 days of face-to-face training</td>
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<td>Microsoft Partners in Learning: Peer Coaching</td>
<td>1 to 3 computer literate teachers per school. Principal attends the first &amp; seventh sessions.</td>
<td>Blended over 8 months</td>
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<td>Microsoft Partners in Learning: Deploying Student Technical Support Solutions (Help Desk)</td>
<td>Two teachers and four or two learners per school.</td>
<td>5 full days of face-to-face training</td>
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<td>Microsoft Partners in Learning: ICT Skills for Teachers</td>
<td>25 teachers usually at their own school</td>
<td>3 – 4 Days / 40 hours of face-to-face</td>
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<td>Clustered or whole school training for 20-25 computer literate teachers</td>
<td>3 days of face-to-face training</td>
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<td>20-25 teachers with intermediate computer skills</td>
<td>All Elements courses – 3 days face-to-face</td>
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<td>Half day orientation plus two weeks of email support final half day showcase.</td>
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<td>Intel® Teach: Getting Started</td>
<td>An entry level ICT skills course including activities focused on basic computer skills and 21st Century teaching. Introduces learner-centred teaching approaches, critical thinking, and collaboration.</td>
<td>3 – 4 Days / 40 hours of face-to-face</td>
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<td>Intel® Teach: Elements - Thinking Critically with Data</td>
<td>This course examines critical thinking with a focus on data analysis in our information rich world.</td>
<td>2-3 days of face-to-face training</td>
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<td>20-25 teachers with intermediate computer skills</td>
<td>Training for 20-25 primary school teachers equipped with Xbox Kinect</td>
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<td>Microsoft Partners in Learning: ICT Integration: WebQuests</td>
<td>This course introduces teachers to a simple project template for implementing ICT-integrated projects in the classroom. WebQuests are learner-centred and inquiry-based; they promote higher order thinking skills and challenge learners to explore the web for information.</td>
<td>Clustered or whole school training for 20-25 computer literate teachers</td>
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<td>Training for 20-25 primary school teachers equipped with Xbox Kinect</td>
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<td></td>
<td>20-25 teachers with intermediate computer skills</td>
<td>All Elements courses – 3 days face-to-face</td>
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<td>Half day orientation plus two weeks of email support final half day showcase.</td>
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<td>Microsoft: Engaging Students with Innovative Technologies</td>
<td>Teachers learn how to use the Xbox 360 Kinect gaming console and standard games to improve the language and literacy skills of primary school learners.</td>
<td>Training for 20-25 primary school teachers equipped with Xbox Kinect</td>
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<td>All Elements courses – 3 days face-to-face</td>
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<td>Half day orientation plus two weeks of email support final half day showcase.</td>
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<td>Microsoft Partners in Learning: Innovation Workshop</td>
<td>This workshop is designed to inspire computer literate teachers with ideas for projects that integrate technology into teaching and learning. Teachers are encouraged to &quot;think outside of the box&quot; and it is hoped that many will go on to participate in the Microsoft Partners in Learning Forum.</td>
<td>20-25 computer literate teachers who are interested in project based learning that integrates technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Name - Description</td>
<td>Target participants</td>
<td>Duration, Model approx. cost</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intel® Teach: Thinking with Technology</td>
<td>25-25 teachers with excellent computer skills</td>
<td>3 days of face-to-face training R26 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intel®: Easy Steps</td>
<td>High school learners, out of school youth or community members and entrepreneurs accessing computers for the first time: NQF level 2 (4 credits)</td>
<td>Four full days or ten afternoons of face-to-face training R26 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>SchoolNet SA: Sizanani Community ICT Literacy</td>
<td>High school learners, out of school youth or community members and entrepreneurs accessing computers for the first time: NQF level 2 (4 credits)</td>
<td>Four full days or ten afternoons of face-to-face training R26 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>SchoolNet SA: ICT Resource Centre Managers Course</td>
<td>Centre managers, trainers based at ICT Resource centres, DoE officials tasked with supporting these centres</td>
<td>3 days of face-to-face training R38 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Commonwealth Certificate for Teacher ICT Integration</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>3 year degree or short courses based on modules</td>
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