



## *Digital Wellness Toolkit Information Session*

Intel, UNESCO and the South Africa Centre of Excellence for Information Ethics ( ACEIE) invited SchoolNet SA and other institutions to attend an information session on the content of the Digital Wellness toolkit at the Intel offices.

The objective was to enable well-equipped digital citizens. This toolkit was developed in partnership between Intel, UNESCO South Africa and the ACEIE , to allow all sectors of South African society to enjoy the benefits of the internet, Social Media and Digital Communication. During this event, there were two presenters i.e. Dr Coetzee Bester and Dr Malan.

The introduction was done by Susanna Ackermann of Intel. Susanna elaborated on Education transformation. In her introduction, she emphasised that educational technology initiatives also bring risks. Achieving the promise of technology requires more than deploying devices; the focus should be on sustaining the resources and it should also improve learning and teaching.

### *The first presenter was Dr Coetzee Bester.*

#### *His focus was on Sustainable Resourcing. Where do we fit in?*

Dr Bester mentioned that we are all part of the solution. Everybody should benefit from the programme. Transformative initiatives result from holistic efforts that bring about change in professional learning, curricular planning, assessment and evaluation, policy frameworks and more. He stated that we have 4 groups of people that should be involved in this initiative i.e :

- Government – they are important, they need to set rules for how to sustain the resources
- Commercial initiatives – they train people on how to use the technology
- Volunteer programmes –where people utilize their spare time, these need to be introduced into the IT sector to assist in bringing technology solutions to the field level

### *The second presenter was Dr Malan.*

#### *Her focus was “what is on the table?” - Safety component.*

- What to do to keep your devices from outside attack? (keeping devices safe from outside attack)
- How to keep yourself safe from outside attack ?( safety and security)
- How you must behave not to harm yourself and what you must not do to harm others? ( safety between yourself and others )

Dr Malan spoke of ethics as a concept in ICT. She said ethics in ICT tends to arrive late in many cases and they only recognise it when Technology is already on the market and problems arise during its widespread use e.g. cyber bullying on social network , taking mobile videos or pictures to embarrass or humiliate someone, downloading copyrighted films.

She introduced the Digital Wellness Program which is a proposed toolkit to support the introduction of information Ethics to schools and communities in Africa. Together with Intel and ( ACEIE ) she had developed 7 modules to be used to sensitise as many people as possible to the opportunities created by Information Communication Technology but also to equip them with skills to use such technologies safely, responsibly and ethically.

Susanna Ackermann from Intel Education closed the session. The topic had been well received and had created good discussions with the audience and plenty of networking had taken place.

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