



ICT Capacity Building for College Professionals

Sponsored by Microsoft

September 2006 – June 2007

One of the skills development objectives of the ISETT SETA is to “capacitate and skill competent FET college personnel capable of delivering requisite ICT skills for South Africa”. Through this project, Microsoft’s aim was to assist FET colleges by offering capacity building programmes for college professionals.

Initially the plan was to offer the following courses to college teaching staff:

- **ICT Skills for Teachers** to provide lecturers with their initial computer confidence and to develop the skills of more computer literate lecturers
- **ICT Leadership for Education Managers** to involve and capacitate senior management in leading the adoption of ICTs
- **Peer Coaching** to ensure the sustainability of professional development in the pedagogical uses of ICT in colleges.

Despite offering this course to 18 FET Colleges in all 9 provinces in South Africa the uptake of the offer was disappointingly low. Due to this poor response and a number of other factors it was decided not to offer the second two courses – ICT Leadership for Education Managers and Peer Coaching and to instead divert this funding to other projects.

The following colleges each received four days of ICT Skills for Teachers training in 2007 as part of this project:

Province	Further Education and Training College	Training Dates
Gauteng	Ekurhuleni East FET College	26 - 29 March
Gauteng	South West FET College	14 - 15 June
KwaZulu-Natal	Elangeni FET College	29 - 30 September 2006 and 8, 9 and 10 May 2007
Limpopo	Capricorn FET College	1, 2 and 4 June and 24 July
Limpopo	Sekhukhune FET College (has two campuses Jep said) (CS Barlow Campus training)	30 and 31 May and 1 and 2 June
Mpumalanga	Nkangala FET College	3 - 4 May, 15 September and 6 October
Northern Cape	Northern Cape Urban FET College	18 - 21 June
Northern Cape	Northern Cape Rural FET College (Upington College)	11 - 14 June
North West	Orbit FET College	1 - 2 and 8 – 9 June
North West	Taletso FET College	25 - 28 June
Western Cape	False Bay FET College	20 - 23 June

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Despite battling to arrange dates for training, based on the trainee reports the courses were successful, for new and experienced computer users as is indicated by these extracts:

“There were things that I didn’t know I could do but the scenario helped me a lot. I learned a lot. The trainer was so helpful she had time for every one she knew how to accommodate everyone. The pace was excellent.”

“The course was well structured and catered for educators with varying abilities. Educators were able to work independently, at their own pace and do activities that were relevant to their needs and interests. The CD is well designed and will be very useful.”

“Would like to enhance my skill in using Access for records keeping and retrieving only the information that I need, like we were shown how to do this using Pivot tables.”

The following comments from Preggy Naidoo (Faculty Head: Business Studies at Umgungundlovu FET College) also reflect very well on the course:

“The approach to the course was outstanding. Learners had the opportunity to shuttle between doing an activity and referring to the tip sheet if they needed assistance. Learners were also encouraged to select and complete activities of their choice from the given list. What they did not know was, that they had to do a presentation. However, the learner accepted this in good faith.

I also want to commend the facilitator, Hlengiew Mfeka, for her approach to and facilitation of the course. She made it exciting, allowed pairing and grouping of learners for discussion. This led to constructive debates and the expression of varying views and opinions. She availed herself whenever learner needed assistance and was also willing to accept suggestions made.

Learners were apprehensive at the beginning of the course, not knowing whether the course would be beyond them, manageable or too easy because of their knowledge. However, it must be emphatically stated that everyone present gained knowledge and experience to varying degrees and I can honestly say that the course was very enlightening.

I am very computer literate. However, I am grateful for the opportunity to learn about pivot tables and felt confident in doing a presentation in this regard. Thank you very much. We look forward to your continued support of our staff in the field of ICT.”

Compiled by:
Megan Rademeyer
Programme Manager – SchoolNet SA