



# SchoolNet – ICT in the Classroom Conference Report

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10 December 2013 - Executive Director

In July SchoolNet partnered with the University of the Free State to host a national ICT in the Classroom Conference. As usual Intel was the main sponsor but the Coza Cares Foundation contributed a generous sponsorship to enable teachers to attend who would otherwise not have had the means and Microsoft funded the cocktail party evening.



This year we were fortunate to have the Deputy Minister of Education, [Enver Surty](#) opening the event and Shafika Isaacs was the master of ceremonies. It was surprising that the provincial representatives failed to attend although the Free State officials working in the e-learning division were there in force.

As usual an impressive mixture of overseas speakers provided keynotes and workshops. [Naomi Harm](#) from the USA has been a regular and most popular presenter at SchoolNet conferences. She not only gave the closing plenary but also conducted workshops during every single session for the three days apart from one. [Baldev Singh](#) from Imagine Education in the UK gave the opening keynote and found a kindred spirit in the Deputy Minister before the opening ceremony. Baldev's workshops also inspired delegates who made very complimentary comments in their post conference evaluations.

Two new and young presenters for 2013 were [Frederick Kastner](#) and [Malik Wilson](#) from the Virtual School, Fusion Universal's CSI wing. In their keynote they provided a global view of what is happening in the world of digital subject content with particular reference to open educational resources; they showcased their own contributions for use in Africa. Their sessions were hands-on workshops on movie making projects through digital video productions and screen casting opportunities with walk-throughs of free online and offline resources.



*SchoolNet ICT in the Classroom Conference at the University of the Free State*

Sponsorship of prizes this year was just as impressive as in previous years with teachers winning a range of amazing technology from laptops, iPads and tablets to training courses and cameras. These sponsors were DigiCape, Computers for kids, Adobe Youth Voices, Intel, Microsoft, Sangari and Train your Brain.

The 2013 ICT in the Classroom conference was well worth the effort and commitment of teachers to sacrifice their school holidays and engage in conversations around improving education in South Africa and Africa as a continent. The camaraderie of teachers reaching for the future, and the wealth of innovative ideas made this one big exciting conference.

Further information can be found on the [Conference 2013 website](#).