



## Schools Connectivity Project in Four Provinces

SchoolNet is implementing Telkom Foundations teacher professional development programme for its Schools Connectivity project. In 2015, the Telkom Foundation provided a range of learning technologies to 36 schools and has now extended this programme to a further 43 schools in disadvantaged areas in South Africa. SchoolNet's teacher professional development programme provides Change leadership in Technology Integration to senior management teams and Intel Teach Getting Started and ICT Integration workshops to all staff in the project schools.

The 43 participating schools for financial year 2016-2017 are distributed as follows:

- 10 schools in Ehlanzeni district, Mpumalanga
- 13 schools in Eshowe district, Kwa-Zulu Natal
- 13 schools in Douglas & Mothibistad, Northern Cape
- 4 schools in Bloemfontein, Free State
- 2 schools in Eden Park & Mabopane, Gauteng
- 1 school in Khayamnandi, Eastern Cape

The Change Leadership for Technology Integration course consists of seven modules and these are facilitated once a month over seven months. This course model is designed to ensure that participants are able to implement skills and strategies learnt during each module at each of their respective schools in between modules. This practice is proving successful with participants being able to showcase what they are doing to encourage change at their schools.



SchoolNet has completed Modules 1 and 2 in the majority of project schools with the remaining schools scheduled for completion. These workshops have provided a great start to the senior management team to better understand and improve how technology could be incorporated into their schools as well as encourage innovation in classroom teaching. This course is proving very successful as our attendance has far surpassed our expectations with 184 participants attending workshops despite our expectation of 146 senior management team members.

Our senior management teams had the following to say:

*“The workshop was a fruitful one; I’ve learnt that being positive with this programme I’ll have more chances to acquire new skills and understanding.”* **Ngomane Thembi, Shayindlovu Primary School**

*“The two modules were so interesting and clarified how modern technology is vital; should be shared with our stakeholders and the community.”* **Michael Manzini, Sidlemu Primary School**



The Intel Teach Getting Started course for teachers is facilitated in parallel with the Change Leadership for Technology Integration course and is designed to provide teachers with their initial confidence in using learning technologies. More importantly it looks to building on teachers understanding of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and the need for deeper learning when using technology for teaching and learning. At present 67% of all teachers have attended a two –day workshop on ICT skills and SchoolNet continues to support teachers in their professional development.

Stay connected as our monthly newsletters will report on the progress of teachers.

Omeshani Naidoo  
Operations Manager  
[www.schoolnet.org.za](http://www.schoolnet.org.za)