



VAAL UNIVERSITY
OF TECHNOLOGY

Inspiring thought. Shaping talent.

CHED NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021



FIRST YEAR ORIENTATION

On the 12 of March 2021 CAD in collaboration with VUT CHED hosted a training session for mentors and peer educators. The training was successfully hosted at the PS building auditorium. The day was filled with knowledge and laughter, unfortunately we couldn't see the smiles behind the masks.

The training was facilitated by Mr Thapelo Kgakatsi, Mothusi Samosamo, Mr Siphon Nkosi, assisted By Ernest Bandar, Lucky Sekwakwa And Khothatso Seloba. The training had a turnout of more than 100 Peer educators and mentors coming from both VUT campuses, namely VUT main

campus And VUT science park campus. The training was filled with laughter and joy with Mr Kgakatsi breaking the Ice with friendly questions to allow everyone to be free and friendly with each other. The gist of the training was to equip peer educators and mentors with knowledge and ways of best they can handle orientation week in the times where we face and invisible enemy, covid-19 virus. The #VUT Safe Fast Pass COVID-19 online self-screening survey form was introduced to Peer educators and Mentors. The survey was built to help staff and students to screen themselves from the comfort of their homes before coming to campus. This made the campus to be safer, and for everyone make informed decisions and reduce the spread of Covid-19 around the campus.



VUT O-WEEK

The Vaal University of Technology hosted its annual orientation week from the 23 of March to welcome the first years of 2021 to their university of choice. The O-Week was hosted by the Center for Academic Development (CAD) alongside the Centre for Health and Educational Development (CHED) over five days which were categorized by faculties to adhere to covid-19 regulations and restrictions.

On the 23rd the orientation kicked off by welcoming students from the faculty of human sciences which overall was biggest group received from all the faculties. Student's revived goodie bags which had dairies, faculty booklets mask and sanitizers. It was an exciting event for new students of VUT as all we saw was energetic and excited spirits from the first students.

For the orientation, first year students

were introduced to Vutela also called VUT Blackboard, which is one of the platforms students of VUT use for online learning and where they can access their learning materials. "The black board part it was very nice and something to remember" - said Luyanda Mngomezulu a first-year student from Durban, Umlazi.

Most of the orientation activities were held through the Online Vutela portal which had welcoming messages from the deputy vice chancellor, Professor Maggi Linington, acting executive director of the Center for Academic Development, Dr Corneli Van der Walt, including messages from the faculty deans namely: Professor Riana Vanderbank of the faculty of human sciences. Professor Roy Dhurup of the faculty of management sciences. Professor Raymond Mabuza of the faculty of Applied and computer sciences.

Professor Peter Osifo acting faculty dean of the faculty of engineering and Technology, and the Interim- student representative council (ISRC) member of the portfolio of legal and transformation, Nomvula Mphuti.

Other activities that formed part of the Vutela orientation was a module developed by the Center of Academic Development, which required first year students to fill out three surveys. The orientation digital booklet was also made available on the Vutela platform for students peruse.

After the Vutela session's first year students were taken for a campus tour by their respective mentors. Energetic mentors took students around the campus for them to get to know where to find their classes, auditoriums, workshops and various important places like the library and study areas.

"Despite having bad weather among other challenges, my dedication to fellow students kept me going through out the orientation" – said Glen



Raphoko, a mentor under the faculty of management sciences.

Indeed, we say, many students enjoyed their orientation, and I quote "It would have nice for the campus tours to have been longer", unfortunately the invisible enemy wouldn't spare us the fun.



PE TRAINING

BY PULENG MAPHISA

CHED Peer Educators



Centre for Health Education and Development (CHED) has embarked on a journey of developing milestones for the Vaal University of Technology's (VUT) students by shaping their future through a Peer Education Programme. This programme's approach to health education focuses on developing and equipping skills of our youth and assist in the transition from high school to a tertiary environment where the workload is different.

The programme is designed to help students maintain their lifestyle, be able to cope in any circumstances, and have a peer educator to open up to. The programme started in 2017, each year the CHED department issues a communicate stipulating the criteria used in selecting the peer educators. The criteria indicate that a minimum of 60% pass average is needed for each

student to be part of the programme as it is regarded as their second curriculum which should not affect the daily academic life of a student but to improve in psychosocial lifestyle.

On 18th to 19th May 2021, the CHED hosted a training session for the 2021 peer educators held at Quest Conference Centre facilitated by Mr. Thapelo Kgakatsi the Project Coordinator. Thapelo made a presentation and trained students in different topics such as Resilience, coping during COVID-19, Leadership, Conflict and Stress Management, Time Management and Goal Setting, LGBTQI and GBV Response and becoming a game-changer (VUT Peer Education Model), assisted by Ms Thabile Khambule whom facilitated topics including but not limited to, health response, mental response, substance

abuse.

During his facilitation, he touched on few points about the importance of having Peer Educators within the university. "This training is about making VUT a friendly environment for all, be a better learning space, healthy and conducive enough to protect our students including the LGBTQI community, we do not just focus on the LGBTQI but most important first-year students. Yes, the programme is for everyone, however, our focus is on our first-year students in order to assist them transiting well into a new environment. Having Peer Educators helps the Institution with dissemination of Health Education information to students and be able to identify whether professional help is needed or not through screening processes," said Thapelo.

Thapelo said that the Peer Educator Programme does not only benefit the university but also upskill students as they receive a certificate of recognition and recommendation letter for their CVs.

Amongst the peer educators was Mr. Phasha Sekhukhune, a 4th year Bachelor of education student who shared that this is his 2nd year in the programme and his skills have impacted not only on others but on his life as well, he is currently the Chairperson of Bachelor education student Chapter at the Sebokeng campus. He said that being a Peer Educator requires time, have the patience to work with students, understand the power of volunteering, work on communication skills and be a resilient person.

In closing VUT would like to thank Peer Educators for reaching out to the student community and remembering that taking care of yourself is very important never lose yourself within the process of taking care of others but always put in self-motivation towards reaching your goals.

PEER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE CEREMONY

NONTOBEKO ZONDI 07 JUNE 2021



CHED team with the certificate recipient

Hard work and dedication were the order of the day when the Vaal University of Technology's Centre for Health Education and Development (CHED) department held its annual Peer Educators Awards Ceremony on Thursday, 20 May 2021 at the Quest Conference Centre, Vanderbijlpark.

The event is aimed at recognizing and acknowledging the Peer Educators for the hard work and dedication that they have presented in assisting students with their university life. These students (Peer Educators) have indicated and portrayed the passion and willingness to better the lives of students by ensuring that first-year students have a smooth transition from high school to varsity.





Ms Maureen Motsukunyane - Director: CHED; guest speaker- Mr. Tholo Motaung and Mr Thapelo Kgakatsi - CHED Projects Administrator and Peer Educator Programme Coordinator

The guest speaker was Mr. Tholo Motaung, a Board member of the Office Professionals South Africa (OPSA) and a host of a talk show on an online radio station- Cobra Tycoon. Mr. Motaung informed the Peer Educators that they need to know that everything they do make a difference, by doing so they are planting a seed that needs to be nurtured positively.

He also shared that the journey they have taken is very challenging as they need to be problem solvers in every aspect. He encouraged students to be focused; proud of themselves and being leaders. "You need to embrace being authentic leaders as leaders are born," he said. In closing, he said that students need to make spaces and leave a difference especially if they are passionate about what they are doing and being authentic as they can.

A Peer educator: Mr. Tshepang Sekhukhune expressed his gratitude on behalf of the peer educators by stating that the programme has taught them to be innovative, flexible, and critical thinkers. "It has taught us to analyse complex situations as Leaders and the

importance of going into the world as rounded peer educators who are intellectually, spiritually, and morally grounded," he said.

The peer educators intend to make their coordinators and institution very proud. This will make the institution proud of the Peer Educators and graduates that they send out into the society and that the society can feel their contribution as engaged, and as capable citizens who can transform the disadvantaged. "The programme has given us knowledge of how to be agents of transformation and allowed us to respond to unfavourable drivers through teaching, innovation, knowledge and community engagement" he mentioned.

The Peer Education Programme offers different categories that students are familiar with such as First Things First (HIV Counselling and Testing/TB/STI education); Women's Empowerment Programme; Men Empowerment Programme; Alcohol and Substance Abuse Programme and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersexual) LGBTI and Gender-Based Violence Programme.

Mr Thapelo Kgakatsi, Projects Administrator who coordinates such a programme in his closing remarks gave encouraging words to all the Peer Educators, "Build good relations and a better society by accepting one's past, supporting their present, and encouraging their future".

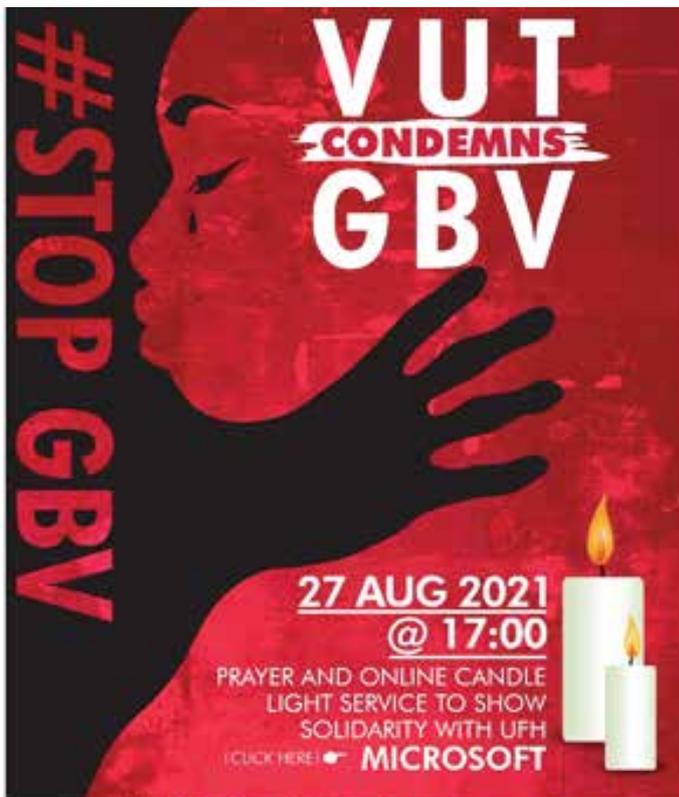
Mxolisi Ndongeni performed for the crowd to keep them entertained.

FTF CAMPAIGN



On the 1st of June 2021 we had to run a campaign called First Thing First where students were encouraged to test HIV/AIDS and Diabetes, and be able to practice safe sex, the campaign was held at three residences which was Main res, Academia and Park Village, we had NPOs who came to assist on the programme which ran for two consecutive days in the above mentioned residence, the programme had a huge turn out more especially at main res almost 1500 students got tested.

ONLINE PRAYER AND CANDLE LIGHT TO SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH UFH: #VUT_CONDEMNS_GBV



UFS. The session came up after the killing of Nosicelo Mtebeni who attended University of Fort Hare, student in the law faculty. The man accused of her death was her lover, whom they lived together in a commune for seven months. Nosicelo's body was dismembered dumped in two suitcases a few meters from her place of death and some of her body parts where found in plastic bags in their room. "When he was questioned, he said he killed her because she was cheating", said their caretaker.

The 23 year was a daughter of a street hawker and an unemployed mother and was the hope of the family is she was set to be the person in the family to be a graduate.

The SRC Academic officer was present in the session and alluded that to understand GBV more we need to look into the perpetrators mind in order to understand all the causes behind the situation. This .

DR S Mchunu, the executive director of student support services alluded that the situation reminds us of what we

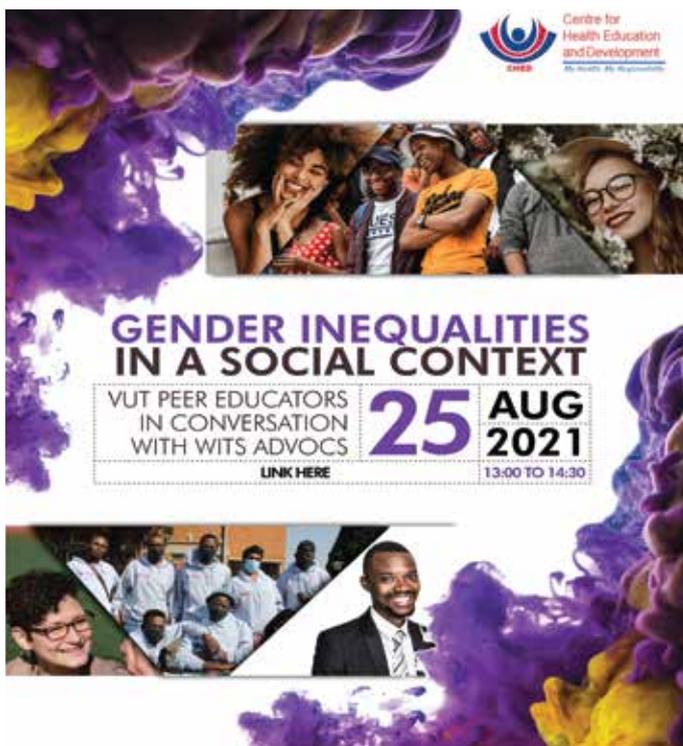
On the 27th August 2021, VUT CHED in collaboration with Student Support Services departments held an online prayer session to show solidarity with



face here in VUT, he added that “Patriarchy is cited as the main drive of gender based violence in south Africa”, however silent witnesses of such cases are the main drive of the problems, referring to men who choose to be silent on the cases, men should take a stand against gender based violence against women. The session was followed up by an awareness campaign to students and staff of the VUT community on GBV.

UMP VISIT WITS GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND LGBTIAQ

On the 13 of September the department was invited by the WITS University on a campaign at University of Mpumalanga to join hands a fight against GBV and abused against LGBTIAQ+ in institutions of higher learning where by the campaign was held for three days where we even taught the University on how to treat cases of abused within the institution which some student representatives commit and lectures it was a great experience for the department.



TRAIN THE TRAINER

On the 12 of October the institutional department was invited by the department of higher health on a campaign named TRAIN THE TRAINER whereby the event was held for two days, topics such as mental health, HIV, COVID19, STIs and GBV where covered and we were given a strategic way to deal with issues of student's pregnancy than shouting at them and be able to train our Peer Educators in our Universities.



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

On the 27 of October we started on our campaign of 16 days of activism whereby we called our Peer Educators to come by a join us on the fight against woman and children abuse, we then as the department took pictures for promotion of our event with peer educators and we took our peer educators for radio interviews and podcast interviews on campus tv and vut FM on a dialogue based on fight against based on women and children.

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**PROTECT
RESPOND
REPORT
PREVENT**

DATE: 25 OCTOBER 2021 - 10 NOVEMBER 2021

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

ABUSE
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
SEXUAL HARRASMENT
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
GBV AGAINST QUEER COMMUNITY

EMAIL: CHED@VUT.AC.ZA KHOTHATSO. 076 668 4561

www.vut.ac.za

HISTORY OF THE EVENT

The campaign was to uplift students of VUT to take charge and be advocates to the voiceless. The student community of Vaal University of Technology received the campaign well as they participated through the timeframe of the event.

The campaign was fully hosted online for over 16 days using Vutela, WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Even though the campaign came when more students were finishing up with their semester work, online has made it possible for everyone to connect from everywhere from all corners of the world.



#CHANGEINMOTION CLOTHABLE PROGRAMME CAMPAIGN

On the first week of November 2021 our peer educators came up with a programme called CHANGE IN MOTION, the main aim of this programme was uplift a students or another student, where by students and staff will come by and donate clothes to needy students as far as we heading to December holidays, this programme ran from the first week and up until 26 November as the last day of collection of the clothes.

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#CHANGEINMOTION
CLOTHABLE PROGRAMME
IT TAKES A STUDENT TO UPLIFT ANOTHER

DAYS FOR COLLECTION

Friday 12 November Friday 19 November Friday 26 November

CLOTHES AND BLANKETS

How To Donate? Only donate items to your selected peer educator on Mondays and Tuesdays from 10:00 - 15:00	How To Collect? Contact peer educator in order to be added on the list /registry. Once added you may collect clothes on the dates mentioned above.	Where to collect? You may collect donated items at the CHED office ONLY on the above dates.	For Staff Members Staff members can become a donor by bringing in their items to CHED office on Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 10:00 - 15:00
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