

200 000 towards skills development project

Mduduzi Mathebula

VANDERBIJLPARK. - The ArcelorMittal South Africa Foundation recently signed a memorandum of agreement with North West University (NWU) to provide training and skills development to 11 NGOs in the Vaal region. The Foundation has invested over R200 000 towards the six-month ArcelorMittal Sustainability Accelerator Training Programme launched Friday at the NWU Campus. The programme will equip the 20 participants with vital entrepreneurial and project-management skills to help the NGOs manage their projects in a sustainable and profitable manner. "Our partnership with NWU signifies our continued commitment to uplift and empower the communities around our operations through our skills development initiatives. As a responsible corporate citizen of

South Africa, we deem it necessary to work together with NGOs to address the scarcity of skills on a continuing basis and to partner with tertiary institutions that offer skills development programmes that result in capacity development programmes aimed at building our nation," says Maggie Mopedi, Manager, Corporate Social Responsibility and External Relations at ArcelorMittal South Africa.

According to the NWU the decision to partner with ArcelorMittal South Africa is due to the fact that ArcelorMittal has been recognised officially as one of the best performers on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange Social Responsibility Index (SRI) and has thus distinguished itself as a corporate entity that values not only sustainable business, but equally important, adding value to the communities in which it operates. "Through the Arcelor-

Mittal Sustainability Accelerator we provide a platform where we introduce the NWU value proposition: quality teaching and learning - and this is delivered through an interactive and highly practical interface to our participating NGOs," adds, Ederick Stander, Head of Industrial Psychology and Project Manager: NWU Vaal Triangle Campus. During the course of the training initiative, participants will receive interactive and practical learning tools that will enable the NGOs to manage their businesses, acquire and develop sustainable community development projects, attract and retain large corporate funders and drive impact-driven projects. Other components of the training programme include providing practical skills on how to draw up a

business plan, developing proposals to request funding from external providers and large corporate businesses, tools to measure the impact of projects, conducting risk analysis assessments and developing contingency plans.

"Participants are required to complete a number of practical assignments as part of the curriculum. The NGO who has performed the best through the practical application of the course will need to make a formal proposal to the ArcelorMittal South African Foundation where they stand the chance to qualify for a full bursary to enrol for the North West University's Project Management Certificate Course," explains Mopedi to Sedibeng Ster.

Upon successful completion of the programme, the participants will receive an NQF Level 5 SAQA accredited certificate.

"The ArcelorMittal South Africa Foundation will continue to work with educational institutions to address the scarcity of skills in order to build local talent and provide better career opportunities for the communities around our operations," concludes Mopedi.



AcerlorMittal South Africa and North West University embark on the skills development project. Photos: Mduduzi Mathebula.



The North West University hosted the AcerlorMittal South Africa and different stakeholders. Photo: Mduduzi Mathebula.