

# Expo gives pupils guidance

■ The Expo will end today at 8pm.

## ■ Reveshni Moodley

In a joint venture with the Department of Education, Champ Marketing hosted a Career Expo at the Farmers Hall this week.

The Expo began on March 4, and organiser, Johan Pieters, said the first day yielded a massive crowd, with more than 1 500 school pupils in attendance.

The purpose of the Career Expo, explained fellow organiser, Christo van der Vyver, was to bring together industries and tertiary institutions with a view to giving school pupils a direction.

"We are gauging the success of this expo with a view to expanding it in the future," he said.

So far, they were impressed with the interaction between exhibitors and pupils.

## The following exhibitors are available at the Career Expo:

- ArcelorMittal;
- Lanxess;
- Boston College;
- Academy of Sound Engineering;
- Durnacol Skills Innovation Hub;
- Standard Bank;
- Blackrock Casino;
- Durban Institute of Technology (DUT);
- Tshwane University of Technology;
- Majuba FET College;
- Ekurhuleni Artisan and Skills Training College;
- Berea Technical College;
- University of South Africa (UNISA);
- Newcastle Municipality's Fire and Traffic Departments, and
- Central Applications Office (CAO).

"We are interested in pupils who show an inclination in a technical career," explained ArcelorMittal training manager, Vinesh Singh.

"So far, pupils seem very interested in what we have to offer. We have given them a rundown of the plant process, explained the minimum requirements and what type of work they could be exposed to, as well as explained the bursary application process."

Similarly, the Academy of Sound Engineering has enjoyed immense popularity.

"We have seen lots of interest and hundreds of potential applicants have requested information," said marketer, Ian Naidoo.

"At the Academy of Sound Engineering, we offer opportunities in sound engineering across a wide

spectrum of media, like broadcast and the business aspect."

Kathy Walton, from Standard Bank, said they had been one of the busier exhibits.

"We are offering advice on opening student achiever accounts, as well as study loans," she said.

"We are trying to impress on children and their parents the benefits of banking, and we intend to build relationships from the start, to help them get their foot in the door."

Sipho Sithole, a marketer from Durnacol Skills Innovation Hub, said they were targeting pupils interested in artisan trading.

"There has been a lot of activity at our exhibit," said Mr Sithole.

"We are fairly new, but have entered the market with va-va-voom!"

Blackrock Casino, whose unique exhibit drew widespread acclaim, offered pupils insight into careers within the Tsogo Sun Group.

According to Stephen Worth, these included careers in hospitality, human resources, finance, tables and slots.

"We have received a fair amount of interest," he said, while offering free lollipops to visitors.

The Newcastle Municipality also came on board, with traffic officers on hand to assist pupils interested in careers within Protection Services.

"The aim of our exhibit is to make sure that children are given the direction they need to be able to choose their futures," said Harold Zungu, of the Department of Traffic.

Willie Smith, also of the department, confirmed that the exhibit had so far enjoyed huge success.

Henk Aslett, of Ekurhuleni Artisans and Skills Training Centre, said they had received pronounced interest in their short courses.

"We offer three week courses in semi-skilled subjects, such as boilermaking, rigging and carpentry," he said.

"The difference with us is that pupils from the age of 16 can register and even complete courses during their school holidays.

They do not need prior qualifications or experience."

The Career Expo will end today (Thursday) at 8pm.

Mr Pieters urges parents to visit the expo with their children.

"We would like to thank all our exhibitors, especially our big industries, ArcelorMittal, Lanxess, Blackrock Casino, Newcastle Municipality and Standard Bank for supporting this expo," he concluded.



Vinesh Singh, Cynthia Singh, Suvikha Ramather and Elias Mohlala from ArcelorMittal.



Johan Pieters, Bonga Mthimkhulu, Nokthula Sidlayi from Lanxess, and Christo van der Vyver.



Stephen Worth, Nalini Sheobalak and Selena Moodley from Blackrock Casino.