

80 proud South Durbanites start 2020 with a computer qualification

The Engen Computer School in Wentworth held a graduation ceremony on 11 December where 80 proud community members received certificates for completing an End User computing course.

Over the past decade, Engen's free computer skills training school has transformed many lives in South Durban, boosting graduates' prospects of finding employment.

"We are incredibly proud to announce that over 2 000 students have graduated to date, each of them gaining the knowledge and confidence to go out and seek jobs that would otherwise never have been possible," says Sheryl Casalis, training director of Added Advantage Academy.

The Engen Computer School offers South Durban residents introductory-level computer skills training, covering eight units of the National Certificate: Information Technology, End User Computing qualification.

To enrol, applicants must be unemployed school-leavers and reside in South Durban. While matric and age criteria are not prescribed, most students who attend the school are aged from 20 to 40.

"I'd like to encourage all eligible residents in the South Durban area to visit the centre and put their name down on the waiting list for our 2020 programme," added Casalis.

According to Casalis, three four-month courses are offered per annum, each accommodating 80 people. Engen invests approximately R15 000 per student to attend the course.

"The competency rate for students is between 94% and 99% by the time they complete the course," adds Casalis. "Upon graduation they are computer literate individuals able to work independently using the most common computer programmes utilised in offices today."

The first course for 2020 commences on 13 January, with two additional courses scheduled for the remainder of the year, each for a four-month period.

Engen's head of Transformation and Stakeholder Engagement, Unathi Magida, says the Engen Computer Centre is well known in South Durban and almost always has a waiting list of people wanting to upskill themselves.

Magida says Engen is both proud and humbled to play a small role in positively changing lives of South Durban community members, who reside in an area where the Engen Refinery is located.

“With poverty and unemployment rife in South Africa, Engen is cognisant of the fact that the government cannot be relied on to provide solutions alone,” says Magida.

“As such, we are committed to stepping up and doing the right thing, starting with paying special attention to the people in the communities in which we operate,” she adds.