



science & innovation

Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



“An Entrepreneur Finds Solutions to A Common Problem”:
Summary of the 5-Day Entrepreneurship Training Workshop



On behalf of the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), the Technological Higher Education Network South Africa (THENSA) would like to thank all those who attended the 5-Day Entrepreneurship Training Workshop at The Premier Hotel in Cape Town. It was inspiring to see 23 students from the University of the Western Cape (UWC), Stellenbosch University (SU), Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) and the Central University of Technology (CUT) express so much commitment and enthusiasm towards becoming business owners. Throughout the week, we witnessed them get to grips with concepts like a lean business canvas, business proposal, SWOT analysis, cash flow statement as well as the process of pitching to funders and investors.

Despite the long hours that were spent in the day, our students would often spend the evenings refining their business ideas and brainstorming new ones with their newly acquired peers. Over the course of the week, we saw first-day nerves and shyness disappear as students networked with one another, identified synergies between their businesses and fostered a sense of community that is characteristic of any THENSA-related workshop. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Ms Vani Moodley and Mr Thulani Ngcobo of Vani & Associates, who are some of the most dedicated and passionate facilitators that

we work with. Not only were they giving of their time and attention, but they would often attend to students' questions outside of the workshop hours and one-on-one consultations, indulging in dinner-time conversations with ease. Thanks to Ms Nelisa Kente, Seed Fund: Programme Manager at Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), and Professor Virimai Victor Mugobo, Lecturer in the Faculty of Business and Management Sciences at CPUT, who attended some of our sessions as observers.

This week of immersive entrepreneurial training was not in vain, as our students pitched their business ideas confidently during the Dragon's Den event. Held on the final day of the Training Workshop, the event saw funders, investors and experts from various bodies and organisations provide feedback and advice to our students on their pitches. It was wonderful to see our students take these comments in stride, even when they fell on the critical side.

Once again, we would like to thank our panellists for the Dragon's Den event, namely: Mr Lavendra Naidoo (Financial Consultant), Mr Alex Qunta (Provincial Manager for SEDA), Dr Obvious Mapiye (Fellow in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Stellenbosch), Dr Deon Neveling (Postdoctoral fellow in Biochemistry from the University of Stellenbosch), Mr Joshua Wolmarans (Acting Director: Department of Economic Development and Tourism Western Cape Government), Mr Masupha Molapo (Fund Manager: SEFA Western Cape), and Ms Nonkululeko Shongwe (Programme Manager for Seed Funding: TIA).

In addition, we would like to congratulate the winners of our three awards who each received a pair of Volkano headphones supplied by CPUT:

- 1) Most Innovative Business: SBA Renewable Energy Techs – Aphiwe Sogiba and Bongani Tshabalala (CUT)



2) Most Financially Viable: Vermi Village – Masego More (CUT)



3) Business with high Growth Potential: Drip Markets - Wihan Joubert-Stellenbosch University



Congratulations to our four winning students. We are excited to see the future of all their business ideas, as well as the others mentioned during the week. A sincere thanks to all who made the Training Workshop possible: Project Coordinator Ms Kogie Moodley-Pretorius, Ms Colleen Titus, Ms Khanya Mtshali and Mr

Buntu Nondumo. We are grateful to the DSI for their ongoing support of the programme and we wish all our students the best and brightest future. Until next time!