

MUT anchors the community

2020 Circle of Excellence awards reinforce MUT Anchor Strategy – and Umalusi takes note

A key aspect of MUT's Strategy 2025 is its goal of entrenching itself as an anchor in the community of Umlazi, in order to develop the township. Playing a key role in this is the annual Circle of Excellence (COE) awards, a prestigious event through which the University recognises and encourages the top-performing Umlazi Township high schools based on their Grade 12 results in the previous year. By extension, the COE awards also affirm the hard work and dedication of the teachers. Zama Sishi, Director of Stakeholder Relations in the University's Department of Marketing and Communications, said the event sends a strong message that the toil of teachers to transform society through education is not in vain, and that the University cares about the schools. "We are proud to be offering the Circle of Excellence awards for the seventh time this year. It is encouraging to see that our township schools have embraced the spirit of competition in pursuit of excellence," said Sishi.



Over the years the COE has grown in stature to the point that it features strongly in the calendar of the University and the schools themselves. From the time it was initiated, the COE has served as a strong link between the schools and the University. The underlying philosophy is that there should not be any gulf between high school education and university education; the two systems must be joined. The COE has helped to close this gap, thanks to the sterling leadership of the Department of Marketing and Communications, which drives the COE every year.

The noble role of the COE in both the school and university systems has been highlighted by the support the event has enjoyed from the local Department of Education since its inception. This support has given the event the image that it deserves, and over the years it has attracted the attention of some major players in the education sector. In 2020 it was attended by none other than Dr Mafu Rakometsi, the Chief Executive Officer of Umalusi, the quality assurance body for General and Further Education and Training. Dr Rakometsi said he was "truly humbled" by being



Dr Mafu Rakometsi at the COE