

activities to the event, the University was able to reach out to schools servicing other races outside Umlazi such as in Chatsworth which is a predominantly Indian area. Learners in the area were sensitised about the importance of literacy. These activities resulted in the Dawn Ridge Primary School organising their own ILD on the 11th of September 2015. Furthermore, the Chatsworth Rotary Club in collaboration with MUT and eThekweni Municipality organised a clean-up campaign at Sunset Avenue in Chatsworth which was held on the 25th of September 2015.

### Student Volunteerism

There was a marked increase in a number of MUT student volunteers participating in various activities during the second quarter of 2015. Forty-five students volunteered as follows: one student assisted in the food processing training of Dexter and Matu Zama Agricultural Academy with the assistance of MUT's Department of Community Extension Department; five students developed a website for a community-based organisation; five students offered computer training tutorials for educators; ten students were involved in IKAMVA Youth Organisation activities; four students volunteered at the Natural Science Museum and twenty participated in the career assessment conducted by MUT's Student Counselling Unit.

## 5.6 Significant Developments And Achievements In Work-Integrated Learning

Cooperative Education is a philosophy of learning that promotes the concept of enhanced learning based on cooperation between education institutions on the one hand and industry, commerce and the public sector on the other (HEQC, June 2004:40). Through Cooperative Education, students are able to embark on Work-Integrated Learning or Service Learning. Work-Integrated Learning is a programme that integrates academic learning with industry-based learning that is monitored, assessed and evaluated. Service Learning is a "course-based, credit-bearing educational experience in which students participate in an organised service activity that meets identified community needs and reflect on the service activity in such a way as to get further understanding of the course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of civic responsibility" (Bringle and Hatcher: 1995, 113).

At Mangosuthu University of Technology, Cooperative Education is seen as one of the programmes that contribute to the enhancement of student employability through the following objectives:

- Offering work readiness programmes to all students;
- Increasing the number of programmes requiring Work Integrated Learning;

- Increasing the number of programmes that require Service-Learning; and
- Increasing the number of industry, parastatals, NGO's and other relevant partnerships established with the focus on student employability and placement;

**The Cooperative Education highlights for 2015 are mentioned below:**

### Institutionalisation of the Work Readiness Programme (P0)

For MUT, the work readiness of our students has been set as one of the vehicles to set our students apart and therefore enhance their employability. Historically, P0 was not timetabled, was not included in the academic system of the institution and did not include employability skills training for the students. A lot of effort was put into changing this situation. To this end, processes to institutionalise P0 took priority in 2015. By the end of 2015, the following had been achieved:

- a) The roll-out of the Employability Improvement Programme took place in earnest. The Employability Improvement Programme (EIP) is a work readiness programme that teaches students soft skills that are required by industry across all disciplines. It is rolled out as an initiative that resulted from a partnership between the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). MUT is only one of two UoTs in the country that have commenced with the roll-out of the programme.
- b) P0 was included in the timetable of 7 academic programmes. This means that the programme now has a specific timeslot in the weekly schedule of the institution.
- c) A comprehensive learner guide for the P0 has been drawn and it now includes approximately 6 weeks of EIP training for students in preparation for their engagement with industry.
- d) P0 will, as from July 2016, be included in the academic system and will, appear in a student's academic transcript.

### Training Partnerships

Work-Integrated Learning partnerships are crucial for the attainment of qualifications in most academic programmes in a university of technology. As a result, the establishment of such partnerships is one of the objectives of the institution's operational plan. In 2015, 17 partnerships were in place. Significant partnerships created in 2015 are those we created with various funding agencies. Through these particular partnerships Work-Integrated Learning placement opportunities were created in industry, resulting in 346 students benefiting and thus completing their qualifications.