



The Umkhumbane Schools Project

(www.umkhumbane.org) is a unique partnership with and among the five secondary schools in the historic Cato Manor township area of greater Durban, South Africa, established in 2012 through a seed grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. With a specific focus on mathematics, science, and English language proficiency, we are working to improve academic outcomes and enhance access to tertiary education in a disadvantaged community full of vitality and promise.

Our model establishes an NGO on-site with a cluster of disadvantaged schools. Through this innovative partnership, we hope to generate a sustainable network of collaboration, resource-sharing, and friendly competition among these five centers of learning. This model enables us to consolidate fundraising efforts, maximize return on inputs, and create a broader and more sustainable array of learning opportunities than would be possible for each school in isolation from the others. Moreover, working within a small group of schools allows us to pilot new interventions in one or two schools and evaluate their impact as compared with performance in the remaining schools which did not yet host the intervention.

The Umkhumbane Schools Project provides:

- after-school mathematics classes for all five schools
- a variety of hands-on workshops in science and engineering
- student-led learning initiatives
- teacher-training workshops focusing on both content and methods
- an expanding network of academic and NGO partnerships
- we are a local NGO site for the School for International Training, World Learning study-abroad programs

OUR IMPACT

Grade 10 Final Examination Results Among Maths/Science Learners at Wiggins Secondary School

2012	18% achieved passing mark of 30	0% passed with higher marks
2013	(First full year of Umkhumbane Schools Project Math Program)	
	45% achieved passing mark of 30	11% passed with mark of 50 or higher
2014	54% achieved passing mark of 30	22% passed with mark of 50 or higher

Number of Learners from our schools entering the ESKOM Expo for Young Scientists

Prior to 2013: 0

2013: 4 projects/6 learners (2 Silver Medals at Regionals, 1 Bronze at Nationals)

2014: 11 projects/18 learners (6 Bronze and 1 Gold Medal at Regionals, 2 projects to Nationals)

2015: 14 learners/14 projects (7 Bronze and 2 Silver Medals at Regionals, 9 chosen for Nationals)

SPECIAL FOCUS ON GIRLS

1000 Girls/1000 Futures The Umkhumbane Schools Project is working with the New York Academy of Science and the South African Youth Academy of Science to sponsor one of our learners who was chosen to participate in a pilot Clinton Foundation initiative that pairs girls who are interested in science and engineering careers with professional women in those fields. Mentors can come from all over the world, with mentoring sessions conducted over Skype.

GirlEng The Umkhumbane Schools Project sent several students to the GirlEng weekend workshop this year at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Girl/Eng is an initiative of WomenEng (Women in Engineering) that introduces high-school girls to the many fields and opportunities within Engineering, with the long-term goal of increasing the number of women in these fields in South Africa and the world.

Girls in Engineering Day at UKZN 2015 The Umkhumbane Schools Project sent 20 of our top female students in math and science to the Engineering Career Day for Girls at UKZN this past March, providing them with academic mentoring and exposure to the world of engineering careers.

The Umkhumbane Schools Project. Education for South Africa's Future.

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