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UCE RAISES STAKES THROUGH EMPOWERMENT

UNIVEN Continuing Education (UCE), in partnership with DC Academy, is expected to make a vast contribution towards curbing gender-based violence (GBV) with an upcoming workshop intended to create awareness around the scourge.

UCE Operations Manager, Ms Thanyani Nekwakwani, referenced a contract signed with Sasseta to reach out to 400 UNIVEN students, staff and members of communities around the campus next month. Participants will include 100 victims of GBV. For purposes of victim support, social workers will assist with psychological reports. Through a 2-day workshop, participants would be encouraged to speak out about GBV and report cases of violence.

UCE remains a leader in the field of short course content and continues to deliver high-impact short courses through a host of training partnerships. UCE recently collaborated with EASTC Technocentric Varsity and the Department of Correctional Services on an Artisanal Training programme for 250 parolees and probationers on trade-related skills programmes. The Sasseta-funded initiative is aimed to empower parolees and probationers with artisanal skills. “Beneficiaries of the programme will effectively be reintegrated into society. The training is further aimed at minimising crime in society,” she said.

Entrepreneurship, electrical, airconditioning and refrigeration, bricklaying, plumbing and welding trades are included in the model.

UNIVEN through UCE has further entered into an engagement with EASTC for solar energy training for 50 participants from the Vhembe District, to be funded by the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

Contact UCE regarding in-person/online training options on 063 962 0978 via cell/WhatsApp.



UNIVEN GRADUATION WEEK

The human element to UIGC Security safeguarding the UNIVEN community

Through their commitment to a safe UNIVEN community, the contingent of 101 men and women contributed towards an incident-free Graduation Week programme. And they were not only committed to securing guests and infrastructure, but went as far as assisting with adjusting regalia at the auditorium entrance. **See story p3**

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UIGC governance board, Exco deliberate on 5-year strategic plan



The Governance Board and Executive Committee (Exco) of UNIVEN Innovative Growth Company (UIGC) were locked in a workshop towards the end of last month to deliberate the group's five-year strategic plan.

The workshop was led by the Chairperson of UIGC's Governance Board, Ms Uanda Ndou, who was joined by fellow board members, Mr Sam Khoza, and Mss Beauty Mutheiwana and Mavis Mazhie.

The encompassing strategy places particular emphasis on revenue growth for the company. It further promotes the values of upholding the highest level of integrity, striving for excellence, building strategic partnerships through the power of collaboration and fostering an entrepreneurship culture. UIGC's vision, as encapsulated in the strategy, is to transform into the undisputed preferred provider of essential client-based services for skills programmes, consultancy, internet, security, cleaning and gardening services.

In support of the UNIVEN mission of transforming the town of Thohoyandou into a sustainable university town for future growth, the strategy underscores UIGC's objective to become a reliable and diverse source of income for the University, to be accomplished through continuously developing and delivering innovative solutions that directly cater to the unique requirements of the University and its stakeholders.

The aim is to create lasting financial opportunities contributing to the overall expansion and prosperity of the University, thereby aligning with the vision of the transformation of Thohoyandou. This is achieved through innovation, financial stability and shareholder value as core goals.



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UCE to conclude on UNIVEN internal skills audit

UNIVEN Continuing Education (UCE) is about to conclude the ongoing UNIVEN online skills audit that kicked off in October last year.

The internal skills audit was aimed at assessing the relevance of the skills of University officials to the positions they occupied, explained UCE Operations Manager, Thanyani Nekwakwani.

The last phase of the project, conducted by external consultants, would require participants to complete a survey for final assessment purposes, she added. It is anticipated that the outcome would identify a need for training to match suitability for the relevant positions.

Ms Nekwakwani concluded by saying that UCE would be able to offer the required action posed by the need for training of University officials or otherwise facilitate the development of course material to address any gaps.

The completion date for the audit has been set for the end of August 2025.

UIGC Security contributes to incident-free UNIVEN Graduation Week

An estimated 100 guards attached to UIGC Security were on duty to ensure an incident-free Graduation Week on the UNIVEN campus last week.

Led by UIGC Security Head, Mr Avhafunani Maberegisi, the 61 men and 40 women were geared for any eventuality during the respective ceremonies on the Graduation Week programme.

Throughout the week UIGC Security was responsible for all security-related matters, including securing venues and communal areas, guarding the Vice-Chancellor and convocation and guests in attendance.

Mr Maberegisi indicated that six weeks of advance preparations had paid off.



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UCE hosts successful 4-day Travel Management training

UNIVEN Continuing Education (UCE) recently successfully hosted a 4-day training session in Travel Management for 18 delegates from the Vhembe District.

The programme aimed at capacity-building was conducted at Tshipise Forever Resort in the Musina area from 5 to 9 May 2025. The workshop empowered participants with essential skills in travel planning, logistics and customer service, with the broader goal of supporting operational excellence within local government structures. The sessions combined theory with practical exercises, ensuring that delegates were fully engaged and equipped with relevant knowledge to apply in their respective roles.

Over the course of the four days, participants explored key topics such as itinerary planning, travel policy compliance, supplier management, effective communication and dealing with customer needs in a dynamic environment.

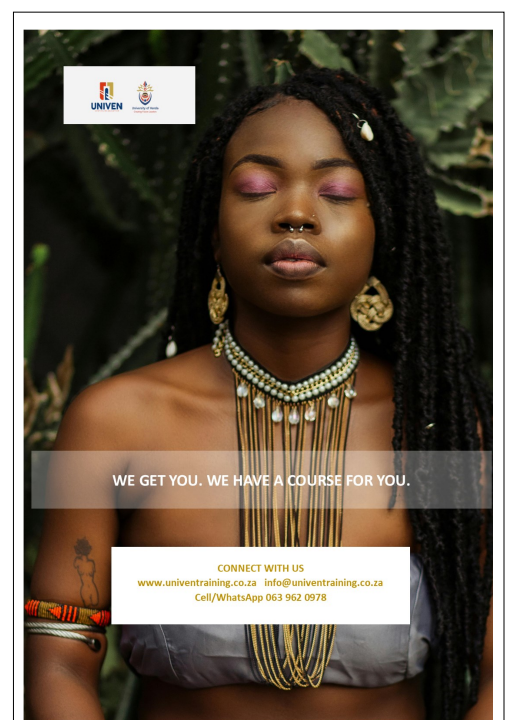
Interactive group activities and case studies enriched the learning experience, promoting and real-world application.

Firefighter training for UIGC Security guards

In a proactive move to bolster safety on campus, UNIVEN Innovative Growth Company (UIGC) recently facilitated firefighting training for its security guards.

The on-site training focused on equipping the guards attached to UIGC Security with essential knowledge and hands-on skills in fire prevention, emergency response and the proper use of fire extinguishers. The sessions also covered real-life scenarios and practical demonstrations, ensuring that guards are well-prepared to act swiftly in the event of an emergency.

The training ensured that employees are proficient in handling fire-related emergencies as part of reinforcing UIGC's dedication to safety, preparedness and operational excellence.



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60 UIGC Security guards complete self-defence training

Sixty UNIVEN Innovative Growth Company (UIGC) Security guards recently completed self-defence training designed to equip them with the skills needed to protect others and themselves during physical confrontations.

The sessions were led by professional instructors and included practical techniques to manage real-life threats. The training emphasised quick response strategies, situational awareness and confidence-building and UIGC's ongoing commitment to safety, security and empowerment.

New Venture Creation programme participants enter practical phase

After months of engaging and insightful in-class training, UNIVEN Continuing Education's (UCE) New Venture Creation course participants have progressed to the practical phase of their skills programme, which is considered the most exciting part of their training.

On 5 May 2025, the aspiring entrepreneurs began their three-month workplace placements, allowing them to put their acquired business knowledge to practice. The practical phase marks a crucial step in the learning journey, further granting them the opportunity to gain real-world experience, to sharpen their entrepreneurial skills and to interact with the daily dynamics of running and supporting a business.

"The transition would not be possible without the incredible support of our host employers, who have welcomed our learners into their businesses to provide mentorship, guidance and a platform for growth," stated UCE Operations Manager Thanyani Nekwakwani.



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MBA degree yet another milestone along UIGC accountant's lustrous career journey

UNIVEN Innovative Growth Company (UIGC) Group Payroll and Compliance Accountant, Mr Mashudu Radzilani, recently achieved a significant personal and professional milestone when completing his Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree with the University of Limpopo.

Over the years, he has built a strong academic and professional foundation that supports this work, including a BCom degree in Management Accounting, obtained through the University of Venda. "This laid the groundwork for my understanding of financial systems, cost management, and reporting, all of which are essential in my daily work."

A Postgraduate Certificate in Education in Accounting and Economic Management Sciences from the University of South Africa further equipped him with the ability to communicate financial and compliance matters in an accessible way, especially useful for internal capacity building.

Mr Radzilani's research for a BEd degree in Educational Management through the University of Venda explored the appropriateness of grading and scoring learners' assessment in measuring learners' performance in the Vhembe East District. It enhanced his ability to evaluate and manage performance systems, skills that translate well into assessing organisational compliance and reporting standards. His MBA dissertation focused on the efficiency of accounting systems in SMEs in the Vhembe District. He is currently completing an MEd degree in Curriculum Management at the University of Venda, which builds on his earlier research and supports his work in training, mentoring and guiding colleagues on compliance and governance matters.

His professional designations of Registered Business Accountant in Practice (SA) with the South African Institute for Business Accountants (SAIBA) and registered General Tax Practitioner with the South African Institute of Tax Practitioners (SAIT) enable him to offer both internal and external services with integrity, accountability and full regulatory compliance.

Mr Radzilani regards his recent achievement not only as a personal success but also as reflection of the culture of growth and professionalism embraced by UIGC, as well as its commitment to excellence and transformation.



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