

# Community Outreach

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During 2011, SAALED aimed to afford as many previously disadvantaged educators as possible, the opportunity to attend various workshops and training courses to assist with their better understanding of the requirements for effective implementation of inclusive education.

In April 2011, due to a generous donation from the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA), two full-day post congress workshops were held in Paarl, Venda and SOWETO. These areas were earmarked by the Department of Education, Inclusive Education, as areas requiring additional input and support. The remaining funds from the DBSA, provided for a further six, monthly "follow-up" sessions on "Barrier Specific Training", which took place at EDCON's sponsored venue. This venue was chosen as it is close enough for educators to travel from SOWETO, Eldorado Park and Lenasia, in order to participate. An average of 100 educators attended each of the above mentioned sessions, indicating that approximately 1200 previously disadvantaged educators benefitted from the DBSA sponsored training. MacMillan Teacher Campus donated the folders, lanyards, paper and pens, for these community outreach sessions.

In June, SAALED together with SHONAQUIP, presented a workshop to one hundred and fifty pre-school educators in Thembisa. In August, SAALED, at the request of the Department of Education in Limpopo, trained ninety educators to use the "Concentrated Language Encounter" (CLE) literacy teaching programme in Polokwane. Mitchell House School kindly donated the use of their venue.

In September, educators from Diepsloot Combined School and Witkoppen Primary School were invited to attend a workshop by Professor Angela Fawcett on Dyslexia. Cedarwood School kindly offered their venue. Professor Fawcett has provided SAALED with the "Hands on Literacy Course" for use in all schools through-out South Africa. This is now freely downloadable from the SAALED website. Professor Fawcett has also arranged for an accredited teachers training course on Dyslexia through Dyslexia International, to be available in South African Universities and for use by government school educators.

In October, thanks to a donation from Anglo American, SAALED, together with Inclusion Support Services, has developed and has now started the training of the first NQF Level 4, Class Assistant Training Course on Inclusive Education. The first tranche of funding is being used for thirty previously disadvantaged class assistants working in LSEN schools in Gauteng. These trainees will complete the training early in January 2012.

In November and December, two more sessions of "Barrier Specific Training" are being held at EDCON, one on Physical Disability and the other, on Visual Impairment. The target group, are previously disadvantaged educators in the surrounding areas.

In December, SAALED, endorsed by the Department of Education, Inclusive Education will host an event to recognise principals from schools around South Africa, who are implementing effective inclusive education. NEDBANK has kindly sponsored their venue for this event.

The SAALED Branches have continued to try to support and to sponsor previously disadvantaged delegates to attend various workshops. SAALED was delighted to be able to provide a bursary for a delegate, to complete her studies in Inclusive Education. As community outreach work relies heavily on corporate funding, SAALED wishes to thank our sponsors most sincerely and request that our funders, continue to support these and many other worthwhile SAALED initiatives aimed at previously disadvantaged delegates so generously.

**Barbi Raymond**