

EDUCATION SOUTHERN AFRICA  
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## Tertiary focus

### GIBB's Job Shadow Day well embraced

*In the wake of growing skills shortages and a need for engineering capacity in South Africa, leading consulting engineering company, GIBB once again participated in Consulting Engineers South Africa's (CESA) Job Shadow Day initiative in an effort to inspire, motivate and educate learners of a potential career in consulting engineering.*

The country needs well-qualified people to build and strengthen the economy in an increasingly competitive global marketplace, and in light of this, the theme for this year's initiative is, "Attracting South Africa's future engineers".

GIBB held a very successful Job Shadow Day on Thursday, 21 July 2011 for the learners of Ivory Park Secondary School in Midrand. Over 20 learners were in attendance for the Gauteng leg of the Job Shadow Day, with a total of 100 learners throughout GIBB's four other participating offices. The offices included Durban, Cape Town, East London and Port Elizabeth.

Job Shadow Day is geared towards highlighting the engineering profession, particularly consulting engineering, to previously disadvantaged high school students, as an exciting career option. Over the years, the number of students in attendance at GIBB's Job Shadow Day has grown.

#### Career in engineering

According to Yolande van Rooyen, Marketing Practitioner: Events Management at GIBB, previously disadvantaged learners are selected based on excellent mathematics and science results coupled with a passion and interest in engineering.



*Excited learners of the Ivory Park Secondary School in Midrand at GIBB's head office in Sunninghill for Job Shadow Day*



*On site at the Geldenhuys Interchange are the learners of Ivory Park Secondary School, for GIBB's Job Shadow Day*

"We wanted to expose learners to the fun and exciting parts of our jobs in consulting engineering, creating the wow-factor and enthusing them to study engineering," says Van Rooyen citing that previously disadvantaged learners were focused on, as they don't have proper access to job shadowing or hands-on experiences.

Excited learners were fetched from their school and transported by bus to GIBB's head office in Sunninghill, Gauteng for a light breakfast, before an intense overview of GIBB's various engineering sectors, structure and projects presented by Director at GIBB, Paul Taylor. He holds a wealth of knowledge, having a collective 48 years of experience in paving design, quality control and road infrastructure.

#### Site tour

Van Rooyen adds that for the first time this year, learners were exposed to a demonstration by CAD operator, Natasha Welken on the use of computer software to create innovative designs for a number of projects. Students were elated at being given the opportunity to experience the software first-hand.

"The day in the life of the consulting engineer" continued with learners dressed in safety gear resembling real-life engineers, adhering to all site safety rules and regulations and taken on site to the N3 Geldenhuys Interchange, where additional lanes are being constructed, upgrade of the interchange and the building of new bridges to improve "traffic flow", is currently taking place. A site tour then commenced with learners being exposed to the intricate roles of consulting engineers.

"It is heart warming for us to give learners exposure to the Job Shadow Day on an annual basis as the look on each of their faces is truly rewarding. We held a quiz for the learners afterwards where prizes were awarded and were amazed by how many learners answered all the questions correctly," remarked van Rooyen.

Learners burst into song on route back to GIBB's head office as they gratefully thanked the GIBB team for a wonderful day. "We would like to thank the staff of GIBB for their efforts in exposing the career of consulting engineering to us. It was not only a fun-filled day, but an educational one," said one of the learners. ☺

