

# Division for Social Impact



## Initiative by Faculty

Date: 2 November 2018

Number of Initiatives: 3

Initiative Title	Initiative Description	Initiative Owner
<a href="#">Financial Literacy Project</a>	The Financial Literacy Project (FLP) comprises participants from both the Faculty of Law and Faculty of Management Sciences and has as its objectives inter alia advancing interdisciplinary research – complex community issues often require interdisciplinary approaches – and encouraging greater multicultural understanding. Cross-cultural engagement in a collaborative manner, combined with the respectful acknowledgement of various sources of knowledge and “ways of knowing,” can facilitate the building of lasting value-added university-community relationships. Thus, with a broader notion of community engagement, we can strengthen reciprocal, sustainable community partnerships that are equipped to respond to socio-economic issues, which in turn are vital to our increasingly diverse populations and their representative institutions. Currently the FLP focuses on empowerment sessions for learners in secondary education, as well as farm workers. These sessions aim to provide members of our community with basic money skills, information in respect of consumer rights and responsibilities in order to develop self-awareness, responsible citizenship and to contribute to local and global social impact goals. In addition, the aforementioned empowerment sessions result in individual consultations with members of the community, mostly farm workers, who may be in need of legal advice and/or assistance.	Hough Louw, Chantelle [chlouw@sun.ac.za]
<a href="#">Ubuntu Learning Community (with Prison-to-College Pipeline South Africa)</a>	The Ubuntu Learning Community (“ULC”) is a new Stellenbosch University-prison partnership – the first of its kind in South Africa. Its aim is to rehumanise learning by focusing on learning’s social, ubuntu-focused dimensions – collaboration, community-building and connectedness. It conceives of collaborative education as the “practice of freedom” (Paolo Freire) – a tool for transformation and empowerment. ULC has three components: an educational partnership between Stellenbosch University (SU) and the Department of Correctional Services (DCS); social support and reintegration for incarcerated students post-incarceration; and a student-led initiative aimed at educating and sensitising SU students (and wider community) about the incarceration system. The educational component entails SU students and students in prison studying together under SU academics, learning with and from each other through dialogue and the sharing of experience. The pilot project, partnering with UNISA students in the Brandvlei Correctional Institute in Worcester in 2019, will be interdisciplinary, exploring a common theme from the perspective of a variety of academic disciplines. The reintegration component of ULC envisages academic and social supports to aid students transitioning from prison to the community to continue their education, obtain employment, and lead stable, productive, fulfilling lives post-incarceration. The aim is to challenge social disadvantage as a barrier to higher	Nel, Mary [mnel@sun.ac.za]

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education learning by offering re-entry facilitation and support for incarcerated students to finish their studies / study further at SU post-release. The student-led campus initiative component involves breaking down the barriers between universities and prisons more generally, bringing the campus to the prison but also bringing the prison to campus. The focus here is on getting students involved in sensitising and educating the community about the project, our incarceration system, the role communities need to play and the realities of this system. The Ubuntu Learning Community is supported by Prison-to-College Pipeline (P2CP), a New York-based project that helped inaugurate the Ubuntu Learning Community as a local P2CP-SA initiative. The Prison-to-College Pipeline is best described as a marriage of education and prisoner reentry: It is at once a university-level education program for incarcerated students, a reentry program for them in collaboration with a unified community, and an awareness-building program that sensitizes the community – academics, future scholars, the community at large and practitioners in a host of disciplines, particularly justice-related fields – to the needs and challenges of those incarcerated and formerly so. Most broadly, it aims to ignite interest in education among those impacted by the criminal justice system. The Ubuntu Learning Community is a proudly South African embodiment of P2CP'S vision.

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Provision of legal aid to the surrounding indigent community

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