

# ESKOM EXPO FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS

## ANNUAL REPORT 2018

### STELLENBOSCH REGION

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Due to the dedication and hard work of many teachers who motivated and guided their learners in doing research projects, parents who supported their children and the Stellenbosch regional committee who worked hard to put the platform in place where participants could showcase their research, the 2018 regional expo was a big success.

We succeeded in inspiring and motivating more schools, more teachers and more learners to participate. By participating in Expo learners without a doubt gained a variety of research and life skills. After identifying a lack of technical support at schools, additional opportunities were put in place where learners could use the internet and computers. Consequently more schools came on board and more PDI learners participated, thus increasing our numbers.

It was once again a privilege to work with schools, teachers, colleagues and organizations who share our belief in the youth and what they can accomplish - thank you very much!

#### SPONSORSHIP AND FINANCIALS

Stellenbosch region wants to thank every donor who shared our passion for science and the youth, and who contributed in various ways to fund the regional activities that led to successful ISF participation. A special word of thanks go to the Mathematics, Science and Technology directorate of the WCED who supported us very generously. I want to express our sincere appreciation to the following organizations:

Organization	Purpose
Bloemhof Hoër Meisieskool	Availing two halls for hosting the regional competition
Department of Water and Sanitation	Special prizes at regional event
Electromagnetic Software and Systems (EMSS)	Supporting workshops offered to learners and teachers, also refreshments for attendees
Eskom (National)	Regional subsidy, stationery, pins, special prizes at regional competition
Eskom (Local)	Backpacks for ISF learners
Het Jan Marais Nationale Fonds	Support in offering workshops to learners and teachers, human resources
South African weather service	Special prizes
Stellenbosch University	Special prizes
Stellenbosch University Centre for Pedagogy (SUNCEP)	Human resources, offering of workshops, infrastructure
Toyota	Human resources, offering of workshops, infrastructure
WCED	Regional level: Tables at exhibition and lunch packs for participants. ISF: Excursion for ISF participants, flight tickets, accommodation and meals at ISF

## WORKSHOPS

Our workshops were attended fairly well. Three workshops were offered to teachers and 5 to learners. One general upgrading workshop was hosted for ISF participants.

Focus group	Number	Attendees
Teachers	3	49
Learners	5	402
Judges	1	25
Mentors	2	10
Upgrade	One generic workshop and 17 individual visits.	17 with some parents and/or teachers + 17 individually

## REGIONAL/ DISTRICT STATISTICS

DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	COMMENTS
Projects	296	There was an increase of 20.8% in projects.
Participants	370	This represented an increase of 23.7%.
Females	224	This percentage represents 60.5% of the participants.
Males	146	
Primary participants	38	
Secondary participants	332	
TOTAL number of Schools	33	The number of schools increased from 22 to 33.
Quintile 1	3	
Quintile 2	0	
Quintile 3	5	
Quintile 4	2	
Quintile 5	18	
Independent schools	5	
TOTAL number of District/ School Expos	6	
Number of schools	6	
Number of projects	890	
Number of learners	1113	

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The number of participating schools at regional level that increased significantly.
- The fact that the additional sessions held in support of learners who needed computers and internet to complete their projects, paid off.
- Schools participating for the first time in Expo increased from 5 out of 22 (22.7%) to 12 out of 33 (36.4%) – an increase of 13.7%.
- PDI participants at regional level increased in numbers – from 87 in 2017 to 111 in 2018.
- Teachers who attended workshops completed SACE attendance registers and could therefore claim continuous professional development points.
- The WCED (Mathematics, Science and Technology directorate)'s goodwill and financial contribution.

## LOWLIGHTS

- Using post graduate students as mentors did not quite make the difference to yield the results we hoped for;
- Not enough time and money were allocated for the mentors to fully support and see their learners through till the end and measured had to be put in place to support students;
- Despite signing a memorandum of understanding, not all the mentor schools and teachers gave the cooperation we hoped and wished for;
- Although training were provided the post-graduate students chosen as mentors lacked the experience and background with regards to doing an Expo project;
- Not having a Provincial Coordinator for the first three months of the year had a definite impact on how the year started and also on the activity of the mentors;
- A bigger involvement of WCED officials would be a real plus.

## INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FAIR (ISF)

In order to get to know one another, open up minds, give broader exposure than just the ISF competition itself and to create a sense of belonging to the group, the ISF representatives were taken on an educational excursion to Koeberg power station and the Cape Town heart museum before departing to ISF.

Seventeen learners from 16 schools with 16 projects were selected to participate in Boksburg from 2 to 5 October 2018.

Each one of the 17 learners did us really proud with upgraded, interesting, well-polished projects with no ethics problems, Good manners prevailed and the delegation leader Liesel Sherwood-Adcock did not experience disciplinary problems.

Projects at ISF	Number of learners	Gold medals projects	Silver medals projects	Bronze medals projects	Highly com-mended	Special prizes	International participation
16	17	2	7	4	3	3	1 candidate

## MARKETING/MEDIA

Expo Stellenbosch started their marketing by sending an invitation email to a large number of schools, referring them to the region's website for more information. At least one email with in-time reminders and information was sent per term.

A month before the regional competition a press release was sent to all local newspapers. The same was done after the regional event.

Photos of the regional competition were posted on Facebook.

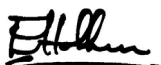
A report with photo was also posted on bigger Stellenbosch University's website.

The regional Expo website was kept up to date with photos of the regional and ISF photos.

## CONCLUSION

2018 had its fair share of ups and downs, fortunately more up than downs. It was a year that confirmed the knowledge and believe that Expo participation can open young people's eyes, broaden their vision and give them opportunities that they would not have had otherwise.

I hope and trust that we can build on our successes of 2018 in the coming year when we will host Expo for the twentieth time in the Stellenbosch region!



Erika Hoffman, RSFD Stellenbosch  
December 2018

**PHOTOS**



Learners at a workshop, all ready to start their research projects.



It's regional expo time and projects have been set up. Anticipation prevails ...



Stellenbosch judges getting ready to do their crucially important job!



The Stellenbosch ISF group on an excursion to Koeberg power station and Cape Town Heart museum.