



UIGC NEWS



UIGC executes Barotta Farm December exit plan

The end of an era has arrived with the announcement by the Board of UNIVEN Innovative Growth Company (UIGC) that it has taken a decision to withdraw from operations at Tshakhuma Barotta UIGC Farm as from 31 December 2024.

The company is in the process of severing its co-managerial responsibilities, jointly held with the University of Venda (UNIVEN), in terms of an existing agreement entered into

with UNIVEN and the Tshakhuma Community Trust in 2016.

According to UIGC's Board Chairperson, Thovhele Mmbangiseni Masia, the decision to exit the arrangement was aligned with the company's strategy and business plan.

"The objective of UIGC is to optimise investment returns by reducing risk exposure and diverting from underperforming investments. UIGC aims to prioritise growth, maximise profitability and

fortify entities within its portfolio that are currently generating positive returns."

UIGC would always remain committed to future engagement with Barotta Farm and regard it meaningful for

when the opportunity arose, he stressed.

In conclusion, Thovhele Masia pointed out that the exit plan would ensure that the withdrawal of UIGC does not disrupt Barotta Farm operations.



Thovhele Mmbangiseni Masia, UIGC Board Chairperson and acting CEO.

UCE successfully pilots exciting online menu with first two courses



Team UCE puts the system to the test.

UNIVEN Continuing Education (UCE) recently cemented its presence in the online learning domain with the piloted roll-out of the first two courses being attended in the virtual space.

A five-day Project Management course, attended by participants from the public and private sectors and followed by a course in Supply Chain Management, was met with great excitement.

Mr Morokolo Mamadi, Business Development Head at

UIGC, described the successful systems test as forebearer of great future prospects for UCE, as it joins the ranks of scores of higher learning institutions in the e-learning space with a host of accredited courses aimed at empowering and upskilling. "These courses are crucial in further equipping individuals on their future career paths."

For more course information phone 063 962 0978, 078 958 9361 or direct an mail to UCE at info@univentraining.co.za



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UIGC Connect part of re-alignment of UIGC operations

Following an earlier review of the business operations of UNIVEN Innovative Growth Company (UIGC) that resulted in the identification of certain weaknesses, UIGC Connect is undergoing a turnaround with corrective measures having been dropped in place.

UIGC Board Chairper-

son and acting UIGC CEO, Thovhele Mmbangiseni Masia, stressed that management has come to acknowledge the issues underscored in the findings of the business practitioner tasked with the review and that corrective steps have been taken to boost and enhance productivity on the part of UIGC entities.

VC to officiate at UCE certificate ceremony

The Vice-Chancellor of UNIVEN, Prof Bernhard Nthambeleni, is expected to officiate at a

certificate hand-over ceremony of UNIVEN Continuing Education (UCE) on 9 December. An estimated 500 students are scheduled to receive certificates following completion of courses for ECD practitioners, health & safety officers and environmental science technicians.



“UNIVEN insourcing model is the best” declares WSU APSA benchmarking team

The labour practices model of UNIVEN Innovative Growth Company (UIGC) is expected to be recommended for future adoption by Walter Sisulu University’s joint labour bargaining forum.

This follows a meeting of UIGC management, employees affiliated to the Academic and Professional Staff Association (APSA) and leaders of Walter Sisulu University’s APSA branch on Friday.

According to Walter Sisulu

University (WSU) APSA Branch Secretary, Dr Asabonga Mngeni, their branch and the National Education, Health & Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) branch at the university were tasked with benchmarking to assess insourcing of workers at institutions of higher learning across the country earlier this year. Ahead of Friday’s meeting, Dr Mngeni and Walter Sisulu University Apsa Branch Chairperson Thamsanqa Mbuzulwana

had already visited Nelson Mandela University, the University of Johannesburg, Tshwane University of Technology and North West University. Following their deliberations, they had been most impressed by the consolidated model.



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UCE proposes exciting initiative aimed at empowering practitioners

UNIVEN Continuing Development Practice-Education (UCE) delivers a presentation on the proposed implementation of an initiative aimed at empowering existing and prospective Early Childhood Development (ECD) practitioners when recently meeting with the Education, Training and

Authority (ETDP SETA). It is proposed that upon implementation the initiative would action the Presidential collaborative focus on early childhood development. Through an intended accredited in-person training course

of 12 months, UCE plans to embark on training unqualified ECD practitioners as well as individuals interested in becoming qualified. It is envisaged that the initiative would be introduced in Limpopo, Gauteng and Mpumalanga in early 2025.

initative is to introduce 4IR in the ECD sector. This will help the country to develop a nation with a better understanding of the 4IR concept. With this, South Africa can easily introduce, implement and benefit from 4IR," stated UCE's Executive Director, Dr Thakhani Takalani.

Extensive engagement marks Supplier Connect Day participation

The early morning rain that recently came pouring down in Thohoyandou could not curb enthusiasm on the part of UIGC's Marketing, Branding & Communications Unit team members over their participation in the annual UNIVEN Supplier Connect Day.

Once the welcome downpour subsided, gazebos and an exhibition display went up for engagement between team members and UIGC Travel representatives with stakeholders during the event.

Participation in the programme included attendance of the subsequent training session hosted by the University the following day.

Ongoing conversations at UIGC's exhibition stand predominantly centred around the diverse service offering of UNIVEN Continuing Education (UCE) and its online learning platform pilot project, which created opportunity for future engagement about the various accredited courses available for career advancement.





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QCTO grants UCE ECD course assessment accreditation status

The Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) recently granted accreditation status to UNIVEN Continuing Education (UCE), to test and assess Early Childhood Development (ECD) course participants on site for a five-year period.

ognised as assessment centre by QCTO for its existing ECD practitioners' programme.

Get in touch with UCE for more information on its extensive service offering that is now also being introduced online.

The Executive Director of UCE, Dr Thakhani Takalani, referred to UCE's success in being rec-

***See front page story**

Work-Integrated Learning monitoring session for students, mentors

Univen Continuing Education (UCE) recently hosted a dynamic monitoring session for students in a Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) programme and their mentors.

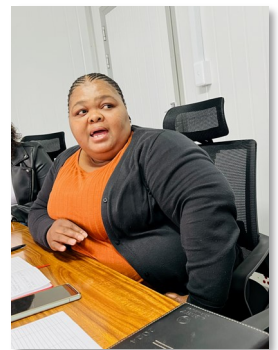
difficulties they faced along the way. HR intern Moatli Raina shared her journey by stating: "I am happy with the work I'm doing, and I've now found a way to manage my studies well. However, when I started I struggled to balance both responsibilities."

ed supportive response from mentors and peers, who generously offered advice and encouragement.

The session concluded with mentors expressing satisfaction with the students' continuous progress and dedication.

The session provided a platform for students and mentors to reflect on their experiences, discuss challenges and celebrate achievements. The focus of the session revolved around how students are managing the demanding balance between work and academic responsibilities. While some reported a smooth transition, others acknowledged the

Her story resonated with many participants, underscoring the learning curve students experience in adjusting to real-world work situations. Khangala Matodzi indicated that while she enjoyed her job, she was still confronted by the challenges of balancing work and studies. It invit-



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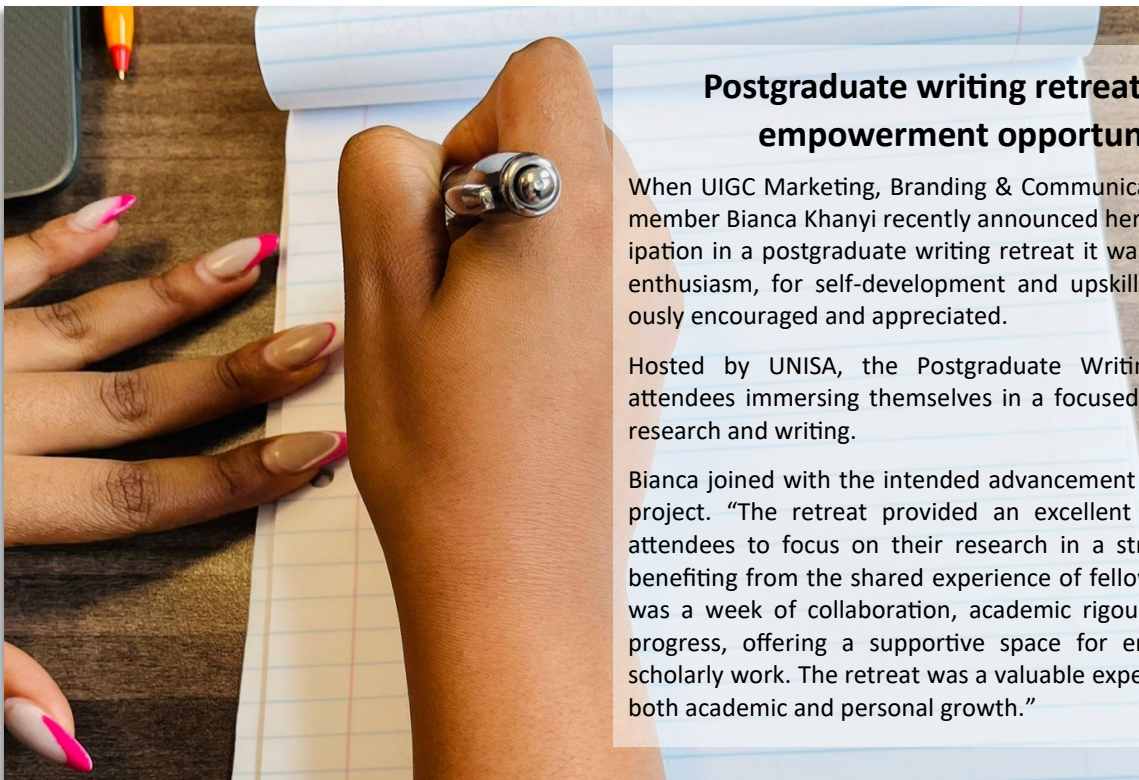
Eager students gather for New Venture Creation, Corporate Cleaning courses

UNIVEN Continuing Education's (UCE) recent launch of its Commercial Cleaning and New Venture Creation training programmes was attended by students eager to kick off their journey towards professional and entrepreneurial success.

Both programmes are funded by Services SETA and facilitated by Delight Training Acade-

my, commenced with participants receiving their learning material.

The 3-month New Venture Creation programme is being conducted in UIGC's seminar rooms while the 8-month Commercial Cleaning programme sessions are being attended at the Nazarene Church of God in Thohoyandou and Khubvi Muzwali Education and Training respectively.



Postgraduate writing retreat offers empowerment opportunity

When UIGC Marketing, Branding & Communications Unit team member Bianca Khanyi recently announced her intended participation in a postgraduate writing retreat it was met with great enthusiasm, for self-development and upskilling are continuously encouraged and appreciated.

Hosted by UNISA, the Postgraduate Writing Retreat saw attendees immersing themselves in a focused environment of research and writing.

Bianca joined with the intended advancement of her academic project. "The retreat provided an excellent opportunity for attendees to focus on their research in a structured setting, benefiting from the shared experience of fellow researchers. It was a week of collaboration, academic rigour and significant progress, offering a supportive space for engagement with scholarly work. The retreat was a valuable experience, fostering both academic and personal growth."

Hello, world!

We remain committed to sustained relations with our esteemed stakeholders.

For any comments, complaints or compliments, kindly drop us an email on the dedicated address hello.uigc@univen.ac.za.