

## NEWS FROM:

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## **SHAWCO is seeking learners who want to excel**

**The SHAWCO SHINE tutoring programme has openings in the second semester for Grade 11 and 12 students who want to improve their marks. Please contact Amanda Ganca on 021 404 7709, or email: [Amanda.ganca@uct.ac.za](mailto:Amanda.ganca@uct.ac.za)**

Learners in Grades 11 and 12 have an opportunity to study with tutors at the University of Cape Town on Saturdays to boost their chances of excelling in their matric exams. In 2010, learners in the pilot programme for Grade 11 participants in the SHAWCO Shine Programme achieved a pass rate of 100%. All these participants are currently in the Grade 12 programme in 2011.

For a few hours on Saturday morning, professional educators in the Students' Health and Welfare Centres Organisation (SHAWCO) at UCT tutor 170 grade 11 and 12 learners in Pure Mathematics, Physical Science and Accounting. The aim is to create a healthy competitive environment among the partnering schools where learners want to achieve academically.

Varkey George, the Director of SHAWCO, said: "The SHAWCO Shine project generates revenue from parents who are paying for the tutoring of their children. That revenue will be used to subsidise the SHAWCO Saturday School programme, which hosts 200 Grade 12 learners from disadvantaged communities. All these carefully selected learners have the potential to further their studies, and the programme is aimed at grooming them for tertiary education. For both projects it is a win-win situation. The concept is based on the haves helping the have-nots."

Mr George added: "As a social development business, SHAWCO's primary focus is to tackle a social issue – in this case, alleviating poverty through education. Our student volunteers did a survey of township learners one year, and found that most of them had never seen a real laboratory, or had their own computer centre. They didn't know what they were missing. So we started the Saturday School in part to raise the aspirations of students in disadvantaged communities."

SHAWCO's Saturday School and SHAWCO Shine both include a career guidance programme. SHAWCO has partnered with the Career Development Unit at UCT to help learners' access resources and knowledge for higher education (not just at UCT) and other skills programmes.

Learners from the following schools currently participate in the SHAWCO Shine programme: Alexander Sinton, Camps Bay, Cape Town High, Fish Hoek, Good Hope Seminary, Groote Schuur, Holy Cross, Livingstone, Norman Henshilwood, Plumstead High, Rhodes High, Rondebosch Boys,

Rustenburg Girls, Sans Souci Girls High, South Peninsula, St Cyprian's, St Georges Grammar, Windsor High and Wynberg Girls.

**There are places open in the second semester for additional Grade 11 and 12 students who are eager to improve their grades through SHAWCO Shine.** Parents can telephone Amanda on 021 406 7749 or email [amanda.ganca@uct.ac.za](mailto:amanda.ganca@uct.ac.za) for further information or to register.

**Caption for attached photo:** Physical science teacher Nazeeba Moerat tutors Clare Acheson, a learner from St Cyprians Girls High who is participating in the SHAWCO Shine programme at UCT.

***ENDS***

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