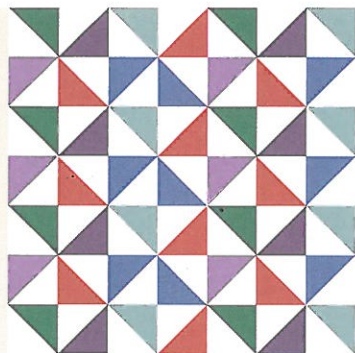




3 April 2017

To Whom It May Concern

The DUT/SAQA Research Articulation Project has entered into an MOU with Jirah Academy for 4 years regarding the various articulation pathways post-secondary school. This includes TVET colleges, universities and industry.

The research project recognizes the value and impact Jirah Academy makes as a community-based college, providing Engineering Studies NCOR/N1/N2/N3. The research project will document all the elements responsible for Jirah's successes and will include the challenges Jirah experiences.

The objective of the research project will be to assemble our findings as a complete study that will be published and disseminated once it is completed. Essentially the findings will help to answer the following question: what are the factors that contributed to the successes of the Jirah's model, and can the model be replicated and taken to scale? We recognize the challenges in tertiary education and training and the breakdown in communication between these institutions and industry. We seek to interview companies to better understand industry related challenges with the aim of improving articulation paths, both from and into industry into tertiary education and training.

The following elements of success have been identified within the Jirah model:

1. Providing free education to disadvantaged youth linked to private sector corporate sponsorship;
2. Providing a fortified learning environment that allows below average learners to achieve their personal best;
3. Providing a way for those learners who have learning disabilities to become qualified and find their place in industry and society alike.
4. Jirah's campus achieves the highest number of distinctions in the country per group of 50 learners in Engineering Studies from learners who start as below average;
5. Jirah's approach to early identifications and assessments of it learners together with learner development and support programmes.
6. Jirah's Whole Person Education/Life skills lessons that help reshape the learner's paradigm to be positive, productive, responsible and having a vision for their lives.

7. The combination of industry partnerships, training centers and tertiary institutions that collectively allow Jirah Academy to produce excellent academic results and transformed free thinkers.

We are interested in interviewing as many Managers as possible, to determine the kind of challenges companies face with learners articulating from TVET colleges and universities; and if possible, employees who start in industry and complete their studies at tertiary institutions.

Your cooperation in this research project will be most appreciated.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DB Lortan', with a stylized, cursive script.

PROF DB LORTAN

Principal Researcher

SAQA-DUT Research Partnership