

SPONSORED BY:



DREAM-BIG-STAY-HUMBLE



Dream

WOMEN IN STEM TECHNOVATION SUMMIT 2025 REPORT



**PREPARED BY PORTFOLIO LEADS:
TAKALANI NETSHIPALE & OFENTSE KGOMO**

Organised by:

Dream Big Stay Humble & The South African Institution of Civil Engineering (SAICE)

Sponsored by:

South African Roads Federation (SARF), The Federated Employers Mutual Assurance Company (FEM), Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB), The South African Council for the Project and Construction Management Professions (SACPCMP), ARRB Systems, Kufanikwa Consulting.

Summit Overview:

The **Dream Women In STEM Technovation Summit 2025** brought together 50 aspiring young women from across KwaZulu-Natal to ignite a spark for careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Over the course of three powerful days, these future leaders engaged with top industry professionals, explored the latest in STEM innovation, and built lifelong connections that will carry them through their academic and professional journeys.

Day 1 – Inspiration & Innovation:

The Summit opened with warm welcomes from Portfolio Leads **Takalani Netshipale** and **Ofentse Kgomo**, followed by an inspiring keynote address by **Miriam Mosia, President of SARF**. Highlights included:

- "Importance of Science" Talk by **Bongani Dlala, CEO of CIDB**
- Engaging Science Experiment: Fire extinguishing using oxygen
- Technology Insight from **Khayelihle Zenani, Department of Transport**
- Guest Tech Talk by **Sphehile Mkhabela, ARRB Systems**
- **Sasol** Technovation Challenge Launch by **Lesego Seabi** introducing the **"Technovation Challenge"**: "Develop a tech-based solution addressing at least 2 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"



Day 2 – Empowerment & Education:

Day 2 was all about amplifying women's voices and presence in Engineering and STEM fields.

Key Moments:

- Guest speakers **Sharon Shunmugam (SACPCMP - VP)** & **Natasha Van De Berg** on Women in Engineering
- Industry insights from icons **Malebo Mohale** & **Nosihle Dlamini**
- **Flash Mentoring Session:** 1-on-1 conversations with industry professionals
- Engineering Workshop hosted by **FEM's Nomawethu Toyo**
- Intro to Maths by **Dr. Darren Lortan (DUT)**
- **SARF Maths & Engineering Workshop** by **Nasiphi Ntengo** & **Simphiwe Nene**
- **PostSchool Games** Tech Demo using Virtual Reality by **Nkululeko Luthuli, MSc AI**
- Financial Literacy Talk by **Fundiswa Zuma** from **Nedbank**

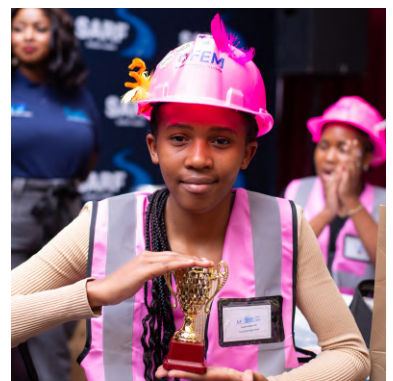


Day 3 – Innovation in Action:

Day 3 was filled with creativity, self-discovery, and pitching excellence.

Activities included:

- Technovation Challenge Pitch-Off:
- 3-minute presentations + 1-minute Q&A
- Judged by a panel of industry professionals
- Launchpad Workshop by **YoungGallInnerChild** with **Siwinile Ngcobo**
- Motivational Talk by **Ratiba Mohale**, Geologist
- Technovation Awards Ceremony hosted by **Malaika Mbatha**:
- Winning Group: **"AAINNNNS"** with their project **"Spark"** – an inclusive, eco-friendly companion robot
- **Special Award:** Feature on **The Root of the Science Podcast** by **Anne Chisa**
- Summit Closure by CEO & Founder of Dream Big Stay Humble, **Khayelihle Nkabinde**



Summit Impact:

From over 100 applicants across **KwaZulu-Natal**, we selected the **Top 50 participants** based on academic potential, passion for STEM, and personal motivation. These young minds, hailing from disadvantaged and under-resourced communities, were immersed in a dynamic environment that exposed them to the real-world power of **STEM**.

- They met and engaged with **leading women in STEM**—not just as speakers, but as living proof that the path is possible.
- **Mentorship opportunities** were granted to high-performing participants by industry icons **Malebo Mohale** and **Nosihle Dlamini**, ensuring ongoing support beyond the summit.
- **Outstanding presenters** received a special award from **Anne Chisa**, host of *The Root of the Science Podcast*, with the opportunity to be featured and share their stories globally.
- The summit served as a **launchpad for opportunities, resources, and career direction**, helping participants chart actionable pathways to achieve their dreams in STEM.



Meet The Organising Team:



Portfolio Leads: Takalani Netshipale & Ofentse Kgomo

Project Managers: Khayelihle Nkabinde, Ziphezhinle Ntombela, Malaika Ahiwe

Lead Facilitators: Zama Khumalo (MC), Mandisa Duma, Nontobeko Ngubane, Luthando Madondo

Facilitators: Fezile Myeza, Anele Nkabinde, Lesego Seabi, Sphehile Ngomane, Lungelo Maphumulo, Kwanele Mazibuko, Mthobisi Zungu, Dimpho Mofokeng, Awande Nzama, Sbahle Ngidi



Join The Movement!

The **Dream Women in STEM Technovation Summit** is more than just a 3-day event – it's a launchpad for the next generation of problem-solvers, innovators, and change-makers. We are building a future where young girls from disadvantaged communities are not just invited to the table, but are equipped to lead it.

If you are a **sponsor, organisation, or individual** who believes in the power of education, transformation, and inclusion – we invite you to walk this journey with us.



Let's build together:

If you're interested in becoming a **sponsor, partner, or mentor** for our next summit, please get in touch with us via the contact information below:

Together, let's empower dreams, break barriers, and rewrite the future – one girl at a time.



Takalani Netshipale
Portfolio Lead
SIACE STAR & Ethics Chair
+27 (0)83 287 5951
tnetshipale@gmail.com

Ofentse Kgomo
Chief Operating Officer
Portfolio Lead
+27 (0)84 440 2478
Ofentse@dreambigstayhumble.com

@DreamBig.StayHumble  www.dreambigstayhumble.com  @DreamBigStayHumble  info@dreambigstayhumble.com

SPONSORED BY:

