

4IR SKILLS FOR EDUCATION GRADUATION 2019

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G-CITI CAMPUS
GENESIS COMMUNITY INITIATIVE



I-CAN CENTRE

masterskill
education through innovation



**Western Cape
Government**
Economic Development
and Tourism



**Western Cape
Government**
Education



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On 5th December 2019, 50 High / Secondary School Learners across the Cape Flats graduates with Globally recognized industry certification, obtained through the 4IR Skills for Education project hosted by Genesis CITI (I-CAN Centre), in partnership with the Western Cape Education Department, Masterskill and Certiport. The 4IR Skills for Education project focuses on “Integrating Global Digital Vendor Certification into the Further Education & Training (FET) curriculum”. Providing students with additional / multiple certification during the Further Education & Training Phase, addresses the educational crisis that South Africa is facing. The project successfully prepared students for the Grade 12 National Senior Certificate and the workforce focused on the 4th Industrial Revolution. The value of recognized industry certification has allowed citizens worldwide to thrive and accelerate in academics, career opportunities and in-demand workforce skills.

THE FUTURE STARTS IN THE CLASSROOM

South Africa’s education system was ranked 133rd out of 142 countries in the world by the World Economic Forum in 2018. What does that mean? South Africa has the most unequal school system in the world. Almost 20 years after the end of apartheid with South Africa having one of the highest budget spending on education in the world (20% of GDP), the South African Education system still propagates the inequality of the apartheid era. The quality of education is pivotal for the production of human capital and economic growth and this cannot be compromised by failing to refocus on the quality of education offered in schools.



The Further Education Training (FET) Curriculum in South Africa refers to Grade 10 to 12 subject matters and career-oriented education. Subjects listed under the FET Curriculum, assist High Schools to choose subjects based on the vocational careers they wish to pursue. The FET Phase is a crucial stage, where High School students are prepared over a period of 3 years to be ready for the potential workforce that awaits them. Unfortunately, we find ourselves in a conundrum, where South African unskilled youth being unemployed, increases annually due to Grade 12 students exiting the educational system unskilled and unprepared for the workforce. 4IR Skills for Education, an initiative of Genesis CITI (social enterprise), supported by Masterskill and Certiport, aims to address the educational subject issues through global vendor certification.



Genesis CITI (Centre Operator of the I-CAN Centre), launched their 4IR Skills for Education Initiative in support with Western Cape Education Department through which Grade 11 Accounting learners and teachers obtained recognized industry certification in QuickBooks and Microsoft Certification for Grade 12 CAT students. The QuickBooks project started in May this year and ended in September. The 5-month program including learning about the renowned financial software called Intuit QuickBooks and undertake an international exam at the end. All students and teachers who participated in the project, passed successfully. Also, Grade 12 CAT students became Microsoft Practitioners



through global certification in September, during school holidays, which served as an exam preparation tool. All FET learners that participated, were sourced from the Cape Flats area through their respective schools.

G-CITI has identified the education subject “Computer Application Technology” or CAT as a potential game changer to enable 4IR Skills at high school level. The 4IR Skills project is allows Grade 12 students undertake Microsoft international exams within productivity programs. The Computer Application Technology (CAT) subject is allows students learn about computers, Cyber Safety, networking and productivity applications. The subject plays a pivotal role in empowering high school students with digital literacy and some advance features to integrate technology in the workforce.



The project took place at the I-CAN Centre, Elsie's River, within the Cape Flats region which is notorious for gang violence. In the midst of crime on the increase, high school students find relief and comfort in being part of a project that is a game changer for South Africa.

The National Senior Certificate issued by the Department of Education and grading of subjects has become a national discussion on governmental levels, as the corpo-

porate sector are reluctant to employ Grade 12 students. This inevitably increases the high-unemployment rate and the digital divide in South Africa!

In June 2017, the G-CITI launched its first 4IR Skills for Education program called I-CAN Digital Winter School where 49 students were certified with Microsoft Certifications. Grade 11 and 12 students from various schools within surrounding Cape Flats benefitted from the project. Student Feedback was amazing as learners expressed how the technology exam and certificate built their confidence to write final exams. In September 2018, 27 Grade 12 students were certified in Microsoft Office Specialist Word and Excel. A 100% pass rate was achieved! In 2019, 70 Grade 12 CAT students from surrounding Cape Flats region were Microsoft certified, as an exam preparation approach funded by Western Cape Education Department from 24th Sept to 12th October 2019. In total, 200 students has been trained in the 4IR Skills for Education project.

G-CITI has identified the CAT / Business Studies / IT / Engineering Graphics and Design / Accounting as potential game changer subjects to enable 4IR Skills at high school level. Students undertaking these subjects can enroll with GCITI Campus to write globally recognized industry certification, which acts as an equalizer to students that attend TVET Colleges and University.



Success Story



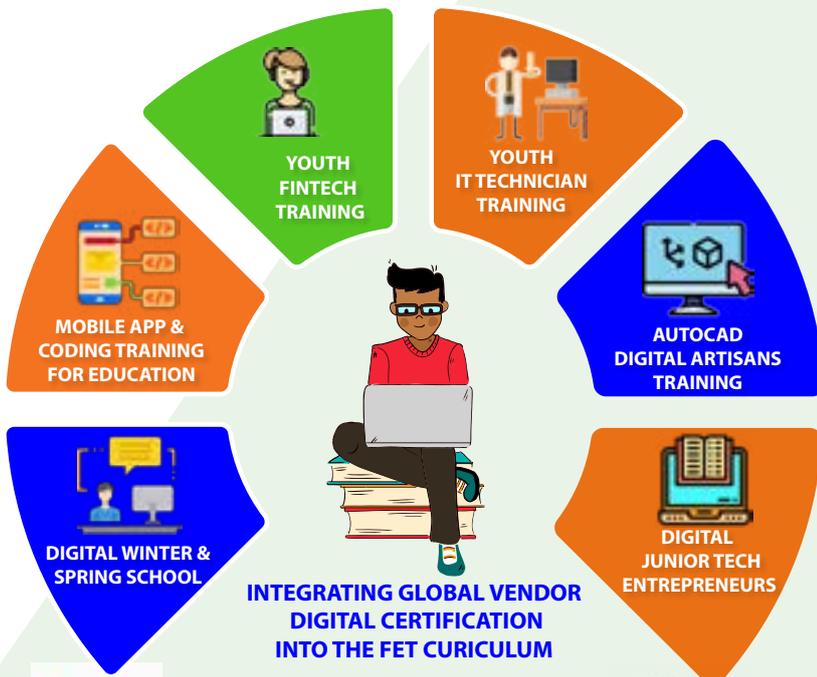
In 2017, Junaid Serra (19) enrolled for the Digital Winter School while in Grade 11 at Roosendal High School, Delft. In his final year, he again attended the Digital Spring School where he obtained two Microsoft Certifications. After matric, Junaid could not further his tertiary studies in IT, due to no funds and parents being unemployed. The I-CAN Centre (G-CITI Campus) in collaboration with SANZAF Zakah Bursary ensured that Junaid received 100% bursary to complete his IT Studies. After the 6 month training and global certification, Junaid obtained employment at Merchants, A Dimension Data company.

We do not live in the same world we used to live in two decades ago. Evolution has taken centuries to get us to this point, but thanks to the enormity of recent discoveries and innovations, we will be able to quickly and efficiently skip over some of the steps and fast track progress. Technology and 4IR implementation in schools means that not only those who can afford a private school education will have access to quality information and education, but the question remains: Since the future starts in the classroom, how will schools embrace the 4IR in classrooms?



Mr Llewellyn Scholtz, Executive Director of GCITI & I-CAN Centre stated that **“The future starts in the classroom”**. He believes that **providing high school students with industry recognized credentials or certification mapped to the subject matter will improve results and create a readiness for the workplace. He believes that these certifications can rectify past mistakes of education and prepare learners directly for the workforce.**

4IR SKILLS FOR EDUCATION (MODEL)



LEARNING PARTNERS

Certiport, a Pearson VUE business, was established in 1997 and is now the leading provider of certification exam development, delivery, and program management services. Certiport exams are delivered through an expansive network of over 14,000 Certiport Authorized Testing Centers worldwide.

Masterskill, founded in 1995, is one of South Africa’s leading providers of IT and Business educational content and services to training centres, tertiary education institutions and corporate organisations.