

Faculty of Science



African School of Fundamental Physics and Applications Learner Program Report

General Information

Date: Monday, 5 December – Friday, 9 December 2022

Time: 09:00 – 12:30 (everyday)

Venues:

1. Nelson Mandela University, Missionvale Campus (2 days)
2. Nelson Mandela Bay Science and Technology Centre in Kariega (3 days)

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Introduction

This brief report is from a science marketing and engagement activities point of view as the Science Marketing Team of the Faculty of Science at Nelson Mandela University are not scientists, but communication specialists and assistant event coordinators.

Therefore, the comments and insights below are not from a scientific point of view.

Impressions

The learner program was a once in a lifetime opportunity for high school learners from the Gqeberha communities ranging from upper middle, working class and below to experience science beyond the classroom.

The learners and their teachers were grateful for the opportunity to interact and engage with lecturers from around the world.



Strengths

- We had a greater turnout of learners than we expected (see table below).
- Most of the learners were exposed to these scientific activities for the first time and this broadened their views of physics and science in general.

Weaknesses

- The number of learners were not as high as we expected. This was because of many factors such as: funding for transport, time of the academic year (most South African schools have closed or are concluding their year-end assessments during this time), lack of marketing/promotion and motivation to schools.
- Poor time management: marketing/promoting the learner program should have taken place well in advance using the appropriate channels and by relying not only on 1 channel. The transportation and catering should also improve their time management skills.
- Few team members: in some instances, we may have needed more people to help with the setup.
- Unclear budget: it became apparent 3 days before the event that there was no budget to transport the learners for the first 2 days of the learner program at Missionvale Campus.

Number of learners:

Monday, 5 Dec	Tuesday, 6 Dec	Wednesday, 7 Dec	Thursday, 8 Dec	Friday, 9 Dec
44	35	54	68	30

Conclusion

From an organising point of view, the learner program was a success despite a few mishaps, but we are grateful for some of the challenges we faced because this is a learning opportunity for all parties involved when planning and organising events in future.

