

2019 SAIMM CAREER & LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

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CAREER



CAREER GUIDANCE HANDBOOK



SAIMM
THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN INSTITUTE
OF MINING AND METALLURGY
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COUNCIL

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YPC-EDUCATION WORKING GROUP (EWG)



STRATEGY

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Master these essential skills and land your ideal job the first time/p6



TIPS

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PROFILE

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CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME

Welcome to the 2019 SAIMM Career and Leadership Conference!



On behalf of the Young Professionals Council and organising committee, I would like to welcome you to another offering of the Career and Leadership Conference in the Minerals industry. Even though the minerals industry is going through its challenges, the conference is intended to enlighten, motivate, and empower you in the career path that you have chosen in the minerals industry. In line with other industries, the minerals sector is undergoing changes because of the

4th Industrial revolution and the effect of the 'internet of things'. The application of technology is redefining processes and systems as they are known. These major changes require young professionals and graduates to rethink their approach to their work environment, their approach to problem solving and toward their careers. You will be required to adapt and diversify as the work environment continuously changes. I encourage you to use this opportunity during the conference to interact with industry experts and peers as you unpack and ponder what lies ahead.

The Young Professionals Council has compiled this information handbook to provide insight on some of the activities undertaken by the organisation. In addition to this, the handbook contains information that will assist you with personal development and critical elements required to improve job searching skills. I would like to wish you all the best with your career and encourage you to get involved in the activities of the YPC and the Institute. Always remember that the struggle you are in today is developing the strength you need for tomorrow. Always remain Oresome!!!!

Katlego Letsoalo

Young Professionals Council (SAIMM), Chairperson

UNIVERSITY PARTNERS



THE CAREER & LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

It is recognized that at times students enter the minerals industry, as graduates, not being fully informed of the realities and challenges that they will encounter, leading to frustration in the early years of their careers. This conference is aimed at equipping final year university students in the mining, survey and metallurgical disciplines with the knowledge, experience and advice of various industry players from different areas of the minerals industry as they begin their professional careers.

Outcomes

It is envisaged that student will take away the following information from this event:

- an understanding of the various career paths a mining and metallurgy qualification affords them;
- the necessary training and registrations they will require at their early career stages; and
- the personal development plans and initiatives graduates can undertake to differentiate themselves in the market place

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This handbook has been prepared for you as a resource guide as you embark on this significant and hopefully worthwhile journey into the professional world of the minerals industry. The handbook contains information on job search skills, career planning, networking, mentoring, professional and personal development.

We hope this handbook will be of great use to you. Please give us feedback on the handbook so that we can continue to improve it.

POTENTIAL MEETS OPPORTUNITY

ABOUT THE YPC

The Young Professionals Council (YPC) of the Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM) is constituted to develop and promote initiatives and industry awareness of the members of the Institute below the age of 35 years and to provide an alternative perspective to the SAIMM Council to consider in its decision-making.

The YPC is committed to the SAIMM charter, viz. to:

- Render professional services of high quality to its members and to continually improve these services by keeping abreast of technological developments;
- Apply professional ethics in all its activities and encourage members to follow suit;
- Fulfil its obligations towards the community and the environment;
- Continually strengthen its image as a dynamic organization by playing a leading role in the initiation and implementation of new ideas and by organizing events around topical themes;
- Diligently promote the interests of its members and to represent them in a competent manner;
- Bring the mining and metallurgical fraternity, research and education personnel, and students, together in one organization;
- Judiciously anticipate the needs of members.

Sustainably empowering Young Professionals in the minerals industry to contribute to the profession and society.



EDUCATION

The Education Working Group represents the interests of primarily pre-graduates in basic and higher education on matters of career guidance, academic development and life skills.

Mission

- Influence policy on education in mining and metallurgy in terms of quality and access
- Support efforts to secure funding for education
- Provide guidance on careers in the minerals industry
- Recognise excellence in education
- Provide academic support to learners and students
- Facilitate mentorship and life skills initiatives for young professionals
- Encourage life-long learning and support post-graduate education



CAREER GUIDANCE

The Career Guidance Working Group represents the interests of primarily post-graduates in mining and metallurgy on matters of training, professional development and life skills.

Mission

- Promote best practice in terms of training and development
- Maximise recruitment and retention of young professionals in the minerals industry
- Facilitate mentorship and life skills initiatives for career development
- Liaise with bodies in government and industry for the benefit of the career development of young professionals
- Promote diversity in minerals industry in terms of race, gender and age
- Create professional networking opportunities



ENTERPRISE

The Enterprise Working Group primarily undertakes industrious initiatives of some scope, complication and risk to serve the interests of young professionals.

Mission

- Support entrepreneurial endeavour by young professionals
- Establish and promote research capacity in young professionals
- Influence service providers outside the mainstream who provide secondary services
- Encourage development of innovative processes, practices and designs by young professionals
- Lead the creation and adoption of knowledge and technology in mining and metallurgy



Image courtesy of Petra Diamonds

The duration of a graduate programme and the path to promotion are usually major concerns to recent university graduates who aspire to become managers, consultants, and leaders of industry. Unfortunately, many engineers view the practical period of their career as a waste of time. Few young engineers see the importance of practical learning e.g. learning track and pipe work, time as a miner. Always keep in mind that practical training enables you to gain sufficient knowledge to familiarize yourself with the fundamental principles of mining engineering, understand methods and processes, and establish fundamental skills.

Production mining

The pathway to promotion is as broad as the field itself, but following the traditional career path of the South African graduate you can typically expect to go through the journey outlined in Table 1. Due to the lack of job opportunities under the current economic conditions, the time you will spend in each phase of development will be significantly longer than that shown in Table 1. The longer timeframes will probably add to your frustrations as you aspire to reach

the top management positions. Table 1 illustrates only one of many career paths.

Table 1. Career advancement in production mining

Engineer-in-Training	12-36 month
Miner	6 months
Shift Supervisor	2-3 years
Overseer	2-3 years
Section Manager	3-5 years*
Production Manager	+5 years*
Mine Manager	+5 years*

* Duration will depend upon the ability of the engineer and requirements of the company and/or industry

Should you not wish to follow a production-based career path, you may follow a technical, research, academic, governmental, financial, or entrepreneurial route.



Technical services

The Mineral Council Examination Department arranges and administers all the examinations that are written by the Survey, Sampling, Ventilation, and Rock Mechanics disciplines. They are also responsible for the issuing of the appropriate certificates.

The Advanced Sampling qualification enables the candidate to do his/her job with more confidence and a knowledge that paves the way to their being able to occupy a senior position. The Advanced Survey qualification is a prerequisite for being eligible to sit the examination for the Government Certificate of Competency. The Mine Environmental Control qualification is required by the Mine Health and Safety Act (Act 29 of 1996) for persons who are responsible for the environmental control of the mine.

The Rock Mechanics qualification is required by the Mine Health and Safety Act (Act 29 of 1996) for persons who are responsible for rock mechanics at the mine.

More information is available at <http://www.comcert.co.za/>.

Alternative career paths

After obtaining an appropriate level of production experience, you can become a specialist consultant to the mining sector, an academic at any of the higher education institutions offering qualifications in the field of mining and metallurgy, a government inspector with the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR), or a researcher at one of several research institutes in the country. You should

also appreciate that your engineering education makes you valued in many other sectors of the economy, such as retail and manufacturing, as well as in other professional services (legal, finance, management consulting etc.). In order to improve the prospects of entering into these alternative career paths, you should plan from an early stage of your career to pursue postgraduate education and other formal courses to support your career choices and development, such as specialist software training. Following these alternative career paths is probably not as straightforward a process as that for the traditional production mining route. However, the section on 'Job search skills' provides you with tips on how to go about getting your ideal job.



LAND THE PERFECT JOB

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/107878.pdf>



This section is aimed at providing graduates with skills for job searching, focusing on networking skills, development of a résumé, and creation of a covering letter. It also provides interview tips.

SAIMM JOBS PORTAL

The SAIMM offers a web based service to its student members to connect them with potential employers.

For more information, contact: membership@saimm.co.za

- The first step in job searching is to be pro-active. Some ways in which to be pro-active are:
- Start networking, find out about job leads, and be ready to provide your résumé. Be able to introduce yourself within a minute, stating your name, work experiences, and/or qualifications
- Frequently visit company websites for job posts, and call the business to check availability of the position
- Use the employment agencies to place your profile and receive job alerts that suit your profile. These services are usually free
- Learn how to market yourself (remember you are unique). Be able to answer these questions at all time: Why should the company hire you? What contribution do you see yourself making to this company?



"It is not the person who says there are no jobs available that gets hired, but the one who keeps searching."



Networking remains one of the most successful ways to locate new opportunities, even in the digital age. People spend time with, invest in and do business with people they know, like and trust.

NETWORK BUILDING

"All things being equal, people will do business with those people they know, like and trust."

In other words, if two or more graduates have a qualification, experience, know-how, or any other determining factor which might come into play that is pretty much the same, or equal, it's that man or woman who has successfully created the "know, like and trust" relationship with the prospective employer that will obtain that job or referral.

One of the most important reasons for attending events is the face-to-face interaction with people. It accelerates the KLT factor (Know-Like-Trust) and expands your current network.

Every industry has events that are mainly attended by your peers.

Industry events allow you to explore new innovations in your field. You interact with peers that might be years ahead of you. You can connect with new strategic partners.

Attending events where you are surrounded by those that have a similar profession to yours allows you to discuss the changes in the industry and exchange information on new insights to improve your level of knowledge and expertise.

The SAIMM organises several conferences, colloquiums and technical presentations that you could attend.

NETWORKING TIPS

- Dress professionally, avoiding strong cologne, chewing gum, revealing your

tattoos, and/or smoking beforehand – people have different preferences

- If possible, get a list of delegates attending the meeting, and prioritize those you would like to meet and plan your strategy accordingly
- Keep your cell phone on silent, you do not want any distractions
- Greet the person with a firm handshake and a smile then introduce yourself, be polite. Remember a smile is priceless
- Listen carefully to the person you are interacting with, avoid distractions
- Thank the person for their time and request their business card
- Some days later, follow-up with a thank-you letter. You may attach your résumé.

HOW TO CRAFT A WINNING RÉSUMÉ

http://www.cabrillo.edu/services/jobs/pdfs/resume_guide.pdf



Your curriculum vitae (CV) or resume is often the first impression you'll make on a prospective employer, and it's important to stand out amongst the crowd. Understand how to increase your chances of getting your dream job by creating a well-structured, good looking and easy to read résumé and covering letter.

COVERING LETTER

A covering letter must accompany your CV as it provides you an opportunity to highlight your abilities and experiences that are ideal for the employer. You need to demonstrate that you know something about the company in your covering letter. This can be achieved by using the job description to draw connections between yourself and the position. This provides an opportunity for the employer to assess whether you are able to write, communicate, and articulate your thoughts effectively. Hence, avoid waffling and ambiguity. There are various covering letter templates in the public domain which are a click away on the Google search engine.

Employers would normally spend less than 30 seconds scanning your CV, and if

they like what they see, then they will read your covering letter and résumé.

A few tips to consider are: avoid using the word 'I' where possible; provide examples of 'soft skills' by form of examples; your covering letter should have three to four paragraphs; if you have little work experience, emphasize your voluntary work; use action verbs; and close by asking for an interview and thank the company for their consideration.

RÉSUMÉ

Résumés serve only one purpose: that is, to get you an interview. Keep in mind that employers have about 30 seconds to read résumés. A résumé is brief introduction covering your education, experience, accomplishments, and skills relating to your career goals. The résumé acts as

a salesperson marketing the product (you) to the consumer (company). How you market yourself in your résumé will determine whether you are granted an interview. Note that a résumé does not guarantee employment – its purpose is to get you an interview. Tailor each résumé to the specific employer and position you are interested in.

There are different types of résumé (chronological, functional, and combination), but discussing them is beyond the scope of this booklet. Although there are different types of résumés, they all cover the following common items:

- **Heading** — your name, address, phone number, and email address
- **Objective** — the specific job you are applying for and the name of the company. A summary includes specifics as to why your background

would make you a good hire for this job

- **Education** — start with your most recent education (and then go back in time) and include the name of the school, location, date of graduation, and your programme. Do not include high-school education
- **Position-related skills** — if you have little work experience, highlight your specific skills as they relate to the job and your qualification(s)
- **Projects** — include school projects that relate to the job description
- **Work experience** — work can include full-time and part-time jobs, internships, and clinical and volunteer experience
- **Achievements/volunteer experience** — any awards or honours that you may have received or activities that you have participated in, both in school and in the community.

EASILY ACE YOUR JOB INTERVIEW



If you are shortlisted for an interview, remember that you are one of a few candidates. Be ready to market yourself and dress for the occasion. Research the company (past and current information) and prepare questions to ask when offered an opportunity. Appropriate dress cannot be emphasized enough.

PREPARE WELL

- Research the company's values and strategy and be informed of relatively old and more recent news; know the company's mission and core values; be aware of any current news about the company and the industry.
- Research the most common interview questions as they apply to the position you applied for.
- The most likely question that you will be asked is 'tell us about yourself'. Therefore, have a clear understanding of yourself and what you bring to the company. Be ready to provide unambiguous examples of how you could add value to the company.
- Before you present your CV, covering letter, and résumé ensure that someone has evaluated them.
- Think about several strengths you have that relate to the position you are looking for.
- Identify and turn around your weaknesses by describing how you have overcome them.
- Develop a plan as to how you will further your professional growth (education, joining relevant

associations and societies (ECSA, SAIMM, etc).

- Know the duties and responsibilities of the job you have applied for.
- Practice, practice, practice until you own your responses before going for an interview.

INTERVIEW TIPS

- Dress professionally. Your outfit should not be too revealing, should cover tattoos, clothes must be clean and pressed. Remove body piercings that might be regarded as inappropriate.
- Arrive at least 30 minutes early for the interview.
- Have a solid handshake (no perspiring hands) that is sincere – let the interviewer take the lead.
- Turn off your cell phone, this is the most important moment of your life.
- Body language: use natural gestures – smile; sit up straight, and lean slightly forward; keep your arms uncrossed; establish eye contact; show interest and demonstrate a

positive attitude by nodding where necessary.

- Control your nerves by trying to relax through breathing, and exhibit patience
- Listen carefully before you answer any question.
- Time is of essence. Be attentive when listening to the questions. When providing answers, remember that you are selling yourself.
- Ask questions relevant to the position you are being interviewed for.
- Stay away from questions related to salary, time off, and/or maternity leave.
- At the end of the session, thank the interviewers for their time and ask when will you be hearing from them.
- For development purposes, you may ask interviewers about how you can improve (preferably after you have received the outcome of the interview).

Every path has its own light at the end

Katlego Letsoalo

Every engineering student prays and works toward a bursary particularly towards the end of an academic programme. This was the fortunate position I found myself in as a mining graduate. Like every student, I was looking forward to working in the industry after graduating. Sadly due to the current economic climate all graduates sponsored by the company I was with at the time were not offered an employment contract. This did not settle well with me. I think the worst thing was seeing the letter 2 hours before my final exam. I went through the whole year with a "guaranteed" job only to have the tables turn in November. One can only imagine the emotion that I was going through considering that I had turned down a potential offer from another company during the year.

As the saying goes, when life gives you lemons you need to make lemonade. My initial plan was to reconnect with the offers I received earlier in the year but sadly they were also affected by the economic challenges. I really could not do much between November and the first week of January. The internet became my best friend in job hunting but most posts required 5 years' experience. Based on the challenges in mining and shortage of opportunities I considered a career in the financial sector. I remember receiving an email from the YPC (SAIMM) indicating that they have a graduate database for members and inviting unemployed graduates to register online for it. I registered towards the end of January to explore opportunities. If only I knew this was my golden ticket. Two weeks later an email with a job advertisement looking for a graduate with operational experience was sent out and I applied for the post. I remember when I saw the post I said to myself "this job is mine". I was called in for an interview and to my excitement was offered the position in March which I accepted.

I am currently involved in a collaborative program involving various stakeholders that looks into mining R&D and manufacturing. The greatest highlight of the current work I do is being around the table with industry game changers and being at the forefront of the future of mining in South Africa.

Now more than ever I realise the importance of being affiliated and active in professional bodies. As a student I was exposed to the SAIMM through various student activities that I participated in, the student colloquium and student debate being just a few. I also regularly attended the Joburg branch technical presentations. I am currently an associate of the SAIMM and part of the YPC conference organising committee. Apart from the conference committee I recently joined the YPC Enterprise Working Group.

To every final year student in mining and metallurgy, yes the industry is not doing well but we still have a mining industry in the country. Look at your peers and ask yourself "what sets me apart from the rest?" The true answer to that question will keep you going in tough times. What I learned from my experience is that we will not all travel the same path but every path has its own light at the end of it.

5 Lessons thing you can learn from Katlego's experience

1. Never give up
2. Be persistant in your pursuit
3. Beliiieve in yourself
4. Have an optimistic and positive mindset
5. Always maintain good relations with your contacts

Making the minerals industry more *adaptable* for women

Katleho Phamotse and Kgabo Mokoena

Making the Minerals Industry More adaptable for Women By Katleho Phamotse and Kgabo Mokoena Her presence goes unnoticed as she enters the room; her laugh, smile and easy going nature put us all at ease and give the impression that this interview will be a pleasant one. She is a beautiful lady hailing all the way from Venda, Limpopo. She enjoys regular activities such as golf and shopping, which is evident in her stylish attire she had on for the interview. Caroline is one of the people who are making the mining industry more adaptable for women.

She is from humble beginnings as she used to walk about 3–4 km from home to Mutshalinganga Primary School. She then attended Mbilwi High School, and later Tshivhase High School where she completed her matric. While in high school, she was one of the top 16 performers who were selected for a mine visit at Tshikondeni Mine, one of Exxaro Resources' coal mines, to see what career paths could be followed in the mining industry. It was there she met Mr. Eric Thabo, current Samancor Exploration Geology Manager, who inspired her to study geology. At the time, 90% of women were doing menial jobs around mines and she was puzzled that there were few females represented in the geology field. She then worked hard at school and was accepted to study geology at the University of Venda. In 2004, she relocated from her home province and moved to Johannesburg to attain her Geology Honours degree at the University of the Witwatersrand. Immediately after completing her studies, in December 2004, she started working at Lonmin Platinum Mine. A very loyal employee she was, she worked with Lonmin for 10 years. While at Lonmin, she became the head of the Women in Mining Forum.



Left: Kgabo Mokoena, Middle: Caroline Mulaudzi, Right: Katleho Phamotse

“Caroline could relate to the problems that other women were facing because she herself was required to put on the PPE and spend 4–5 hours underground. She then saw the need to start the Mbokoto Group, a “one stop” company focusing on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) designed for the female physique”

She was leading this role concurrently with her geology responsibilities. This was a very opportune position for her

as she was able to have an eagle's eye view of the problems women were faced with in the mines. A lot of women would complain that the personal protective equipment (PPE) garments were not suited for their physique and needs. Caroline could relate to the problems that other women were facing because she herself was required to put on the PPE and spend 4–5 hours underground. She then saw the need

to start the Mbokoto Group, a 'one-stop' company focusing on PPE designed for the female physique and sanitary packs for women to attach to their PPE in case of emergencies, hosting workshops to empower women, with the PPE having received the greatest achievement.

There is maternity wear PPE as pregnant women can be allocated low-risk tasks that may still require them to wear full PPE on surface (for example: ladies working at the stores). All these variations of PPE are available because Caroline strongly believes that a garment should accommodate a person's needs. The fabric that the PPE is made of is SABS-approved to meet safety standards for a mining environment.

In August 2015, Caroline introduced her PPE products at the women's conference organized by the MHSC and DMR at Birchwood Hotel. The Mbokoto brand received enthusiastic support from the unions, mine management, and the general workforce. The conference was attended by numerous mining houses, and the then Minister of Minerals (Mr Ngoako Ramatlhodi) who was highly impressed by the



Above: Maternity wear that flares out as the pregnant woman's tummy grows

innovations and the unique designs. This was the highlight for Caroline, her hard work and persistence had finally paid off.

Starting her own company was not a smooth ride. She faced many challenges along the way; these included raising the starting capital to buy machinery, paying employees, and a lack of skills with regards to operating sewing machines. It became very apparent to Caroline at the time that South Africa lacks portable skills. Training costs became a large expense for her, and gave birth to other problems of efficiencies in producing required batches of PPE. Mining is a very old profession in South Africa and PPE has been worn for years; as a result, mines prefer to purchase PPE from reputable companies that have been in the business for a while. That became another challenge for Caroline as it was not easy to penetrate the market. It however turned out that the women who had tried on Caroline's PPE were extremely happy with the comfort and how the PPE was able to meet their needs. To overcome most of her challenges, Caroline worked closely with the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) and the Mine Health and Safety Council (MHSC). She attends tripartite meetings and the two bodies have helped immensely with exposure for her company. She also worked closely with the government funding and business development institutions such as the Small Enterprise Financing

Agencies (SEFA) and Small Enterprise Development Agencies (SEDA). To improve productivity and efficiencies, her company is working closely with Productivity SA, an institution specializing in analysing and improving business performance. To develop her export capabilities, the Export Credit Insurance Co-operation of South Africa (ECIC) also approved her company for further capital outlay and support. This also proves to all South Africans that the government has established substantial institutions directed towards supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Caroline's PPE

products have passed the end-user trial and have been approved for use by some of the biggest mining companies in South Africa, including Sibanye Gold, Gold Fields, Gold One, Bokoni Platinum, PPC Slurry, Idwala Lime Producers, Samancor Chrome East, Two Rivers, Dwars River, and Universal Coal.

Being a young woman in a male-dominated world, Caroline has needed very strong support structures by her side that have encouraged her to soldier on even when it seemed like things would not work out. Her support structures have been her mother, brothers, and her children as she wants to leave a legacy for them. While mentioning her children, Caroline did remark that she was a teenage mother and that was never a barrier for her to achieve her goals. Instead she turned it into a positive aspect and kept pushing forward to reach to the stars.

Her mentor, Mark Munroe, current Vice President at Black Mountain Mining, has played a great role in her success too. Her advice to young people who wish to follow the entrepreneurial route is as follows.

- Break boundaries: do not limit yourself to what people have been able to do in the past

- Get as much exposure as possible: go out there, ask, do not only do work for money, do it to learn
- Remain focused: even if you have many ideas, focus on at least three or four and watch them transpire before moving onto the next idea
- Be humble: always be willing to learn from your surroundings and from everyone, regardless of their rank
- Develop very good listening skills: it is in listening that you are able to identify an area that needs extreme caution and focus
- Be self-driven: there are a lot of challenges along the way and if you do not want something badly for yourself, anything can shift your focus
- Be persistent: for the doors that are not open, be willing to kick and slam them down
- Do not take 'no' for an answer: there are many people willing to help so you must not be discouraged by any one person who says no.

Given the great advice, Caroline shows further that she does not just mention things but she practices what she preaches. Her company, Mbokoto Group, has grown, and a mining consultancy was birthed from her initial company, named MIC Mining Consultancy. Her consultancy firm has worked on manganese and coal exploration projects and is assisting with obtaining mining licenses and mine technical services, to mention a few.

Today, Caroline's companies can run themselves since she strongly believes in learning continuously. To prove that, she is currently studying towards a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Management at the University of South Africa (UNISA). She not only empowers herself but also empowers people through learnerships offered at Mbokoto Group. Mbokoto Group currently has about 35 employees, most of whom were recruited through the learnership programme that offers a tailoring course. The people who successfully complete the tailoring course end up as employees. Caroline is truly an inspiration to young people.

Expectations of students from the industry after graduation and the reality

By Dineo Makhoba

What Students expect from the Industry after Graduation, and the Reality By Dineo Makhoba One of the main aims of the YPC is to ensure that varsity students are adequately equipped with the basic tools that will propel them in industry as graduates.

Currently, the view of the mining industry according to the younger generation is quite vague and unclear. According to Khanyisile Khenene, a grade 11 student from the Eunice High School for Girls, being a mining engineer is about finding diamonds. Indeed, this is quite a limited and basic view of the exciting mining industry as there is a wide range of commodities.

The industry may thus seem unpredictable and daunting for most undergraduate students who are in the beginning stages of attaining their degree. The academic requirements for entry into the academic programme ensure that the technical skills of the student are effective enough to be applied within the working industry.

With that being said, what are the main expectations of a graduate with regard to the real and exciting world of the mining industry?

For most students the biggest expectation is, 'Finally all my hard work is going to pay off.' Realistically speaking, however, the starting salary package of most graduates is adequate only once saving and smart spending techniques have been adopted. Students also expect the same structured routine that they have

"For most students the biggest expectation is, "Finally all my hard work is going to pay off"

*"The ever important question is
"How do I become greater?"*

become used to during their whole schooling career, but graduate programmes will require flexibility and time management skills.

As an undergraduate student, equipping yourself not only with technical tools but with the capacity to climb the social ladder is imperative for ensuring your own personal growth within the industry.

According to Boitumelo Tshetlanyane, a recent mining engineering graduate from Wits University and a South 32 employee, her expectations of the mining industry were of a very cut-throat and fast-paced environment. However, she has since learnt that while the industry is indeed fast-paced, the initiative and determination of the graduate will prevail.

In addition to this, the mining industry will require the graduate to have social networking skills, a clear vision of where they want to be headed, and to continually ask themselves the ever-important question 'How do I become greater?'

Most undergraduates expect the work environment to be flexible and well planned, but as mentioned above the working environment will be influenced by the initiative and the motivation of the graduate. It will mean pushing yourself beyond your comfort zone and growing your social skills at varsity. It is not an easy path, but with determination and commitment all things are possible.

MENTORING: THE BILLION DOLLAR SECRET TO SUCCESS

Mentorship is a very important aspect of career development, because regardless of how brilliant a graduate is, they can always benefit from the knowledge and experience of those who have gone before them.



“If you ask any successful businessperson, they will always (say they) have had a great mentor at some point along the road.” – Richard Branson

A mentor is important at any stage of the game. Whether you are just beginning your career path or you are well on your way, there is always someone one step ahead who can provide invaluable guidance and wisdom. Oprah had Maya Angelou, Bill Gates has Warren Buffett and Plato had Socrates. A mentor can act as an advisor, a teacher, a sounding board or even a counselor. Some people seek to be a mentor and others seek mentors themselves. At any rate, a mentor can have a significant positive impact on professional development, personal growth and corporate success.

It is important to find a good mentor as early as possible in one's career. Some companies offer a mentorship programme for their graduates, but if the graduate is not proactive, this becomes nothing more than a paper exercise. So understanding the importance of mentorship and how to incorporate it into a career development plan is vital for any graduate.

Finding a good mentor is the responsibility of the graduate, regardless of whether or not your company has a formal structure to facilitate this process. As the party



SAIMM MENTORING PROGRAMME

For more information, contact:
membership@saimm.co.za

set to benefit the most from a mentorship relationship, the graduate should be proactive in developing and maintaining such a relationship.

A good mentor should be someone who has advanced further than you in your chosen profession, but who is still in touch with the challenges you may be facing in your current role. Therefore as exciting as the idea is, having an executive of a multinational mining company as a mentor may not be the most appropriate mentorship relationship for a graduate. Senior executives are mostly concerned with grooming people at a senior management level, who can benefit mostly from their mentorship, as their successors.

A good mentor would have gone through the path that you are now on and has the benefit of providing you with a wider perspective when dealing with challenges or determining a direction for your career. As a graduate beginning your professional career, you may face situations and challenges that are completely new to you, and for which you are not prepared. Having a mentor as a sounding-board and source of advice can prevent you from making career damaging mistakes, and allows you to impress your superiors by handling situations and challenges with the wisdom of a more experienced person.

The SAIMM offers a mentoring programme linking young professionals with experienced and knowledgeable mentors to provide consistent support, guidance and concrete help on a one-to-one basis to enhance their career development.

Some guidelines to starting a mentorship relationship include:

- Identify a mentor at an appropriate level in an organization. A guiding principle is that a mentor should be at least one level above your current position, but no more than four; beyond this point mentors cease becoming truly relevant to your progress. Also, try to avoid having a mentor in your direct line of reporting as this may result in conflict between mentorship and professional relationships.
- Having several mentors can be beneficial. A mentor close to your current level in the organization can help you deal with day-to-day professional issues, as they often tend to

be more accessible. A mentor who is more advanced in their career can help you with overall career and personal development

- Identifying mentors outside your organization is also valuable, as these types of mentors can provide you with a wider perspective
- As with any new relationship, the mentee has to sell him/herself in a mentorship relationship.

Demonstrate enthusiasm and initiative to your prospective mentor, in order to generate enthusiasm around the prospect of mentoring you

- When approaching a stranger to mentor you, a direct approach where you ask: 'Can you be my mentor?' may not always be best. As a stranger has no pre-existing relationship with you, they may not be convinced that mentoring you will be a good investment of their time. It is often better to allow a mentorship relationship to develop by interacting with your prospective mentor, where you ask for practical professional advice.
- Be proactive in managing the mentorship relationship and respect your mentor's time. Understand that your mentor(s) has limited time to share with you, so initiate meetings on a regular basis with an understanding that your mentor has other commitments. Prepare for your meetings with your mentor by thinking about specific questions you have, and make note of any advice or references your mentor may direct you to.

It is important for graduates to note that not every mentorship relationship that you initiate will work out, but that mentorship is a very important pillar for developing a good career.

References on mentorship:

- Ten Steps to Finding Your Mentor:
<http://powertochange.com/world/findmentor/>
- 10 Ways to be a Good Mentor:
http://www.blueskycoaching.com.au/pdf/v4i10_mentor.pdf
- The 3 Career Mentors Everyone Should Have:
<https://www.themuse.com/advice/the-3-careermentors-everyone-should-have>
- 5 Simple but Strategic Steps for Finding a Good Mentor:
<https://www.themuse.com/advice/the-3-career-mentors-everyone-should-have>
- What do Oprah, Bill Gates and Plato Have in Common? They all had Mentors.
<http://www.meridiarecruitment.ca/content/what-do-oprah-bill-gates-and-plato-have-common-they-all-had-mentors>

So You Want to Be a Great Leader...

The thought of moving into a management role, having employees report to you, increasing your corporate responsibility, going on corporate trips and receiving a pay increase is attractive. The question is, do you know what it takes to not just be a good leader but to be a great leader? If you haven't thought about it, here is where to start.

1. Be ready to serve 24/7

Leadership is about serving not taking. It means being available to people when they need help not when you need help. It means loving people with different backgrounds, priorities, and goals. People want to feel loved and appreciated. If you aren't ready to love people, you aren't ready to be a leader.

2. Work longer and harder than anyone else on the team

Some people believe being a leader means taking off time when you want and having other people do the work you don't enjoy. It couldn't be further from the truth. The minute you begin to lead this way, not only are you abusing the power that comes with the title, you aren't focused on the people you serve.

3. Have a positive and optimistic attitude everyday

Being positive means you see the little bright spot shining through the clouds, not just a cloudy sky. As Jon Gordon wrote in *The Energy Bus*, "Desire, vision, and focus help you turn the bus in the right direction, but positive energy is necessary to take you where you want to go." Leaders must be the beacon of positivity and optimism to their people because it's contagious.

4. Have enthusiasm about your work that's borderline insane

Enthusiasm comes from the greek word *entheos*, which means "inspired" or "filled with divine." It doesn't matter what industry you are in, having an enthusiasm about what you do is required to inspire others. Many people think they are enthusiastic about what they do, but have no clue how much passion is actually required to pass it on to others. If you only have a mild obsession and enthusiasm with your profession, chances of becoming a great leader are slim. The great part is this can grow over time with effort and energy.

5. Be comfortable, being uncomfortable

Leaders have to make decisions. Oftentimes, the decisions are tough ones that affect lives, relationships, and the future course of events. It's paramount you get comfortable with being uncomfortable. If you have a clear purpose, vision, values and beliefs, it makes these decisions easier.

6. Have a standard for yourself that seems unattainable

Leaders are an example whether they like it or not. Every action, word, and mannerism, is observed. If you aren't ready for that kind of attention and spotlight might want to rethink your desire to lead.

To become a leader is the most rewarding and fulfilling role you can have as a professional. A good understanding of what it really takes to not just be a good leader, but a great one will enable you to add value to your organization and the world.

"As we look ahead into the next century,
leaders will be those who empower others."
– Bill Gates

6 BOOKS YOU MUST READ BEFORE TURNING 30

Books have always been, and remain, a good source of knowledge. Reading books can help you develop non-technical skills that are necessary for career and personal growth. Reading the relevant books has the benefit of taking us to the source of the knowledge possessed by some of those who we most admire, and enriches our ability to learn from those people.

The SAIMM YPC would like to recommend some useful reading that can help you develop the skills for excelling not only as a professional, but as a person. It is our hope that this reading will be of value to you.

1. *So Good They Can't Ignore You (Why Skills Trump Passion in the Quest for Work You Love)*, by Cal Newport—

In this compelling book, Newport argues against the 'follow your passion' job philosophy that we so often hear. He makes the case that very few people have a pre-existing passion that informs their career choice, and that such an expectation often leads to frustration. According to Newport, most successful people make a conscious effort to work hard and become good at what they do, and this eventually results in their overall success and job satisfaction. This is a good read for anyone starting their career and wanting to determine how best to approach their development.

2. *How to Win Friends and Influence people*, by Dale Carnegie—

This has been a top-selling business book for over sixty years and is an essential read for any young professional wanting to develop their leadership abilities. The book focuses on the psychology of how people function, and helps the reader use this knowledge to their advantage and emerge as a leader.

3. *Never Eat Alone (and other Secrets to Success, One Relationship at a Time)*, by Keith Ferazzi—

Keith Ferazzi addresses the very important skill of network-building. The author uses his personal experience to share strategies on how to reach out to people you admire and build a personal network that can help advance your career.

4. *Getting Things Done (the Art of Stress-free Productivity)*, by David Allen—

This is a good read for anyone starting out their career, as it gives advice on issues such as time management (in the office and at home). It also talks to managing daily tasks while allowing for 'thinking space' to keep focus on long-term goals.

5. *Lean In (Women, Work and the Will to Lead)*, by Sheryl Sandberg—

This book is aimed at women intending to have successful professional careers. The author highlights some of the things she believes women do to unintentionally that undermine their professional progress.

6. *Think and Grow Rich*, by Napoleon Hill

On your path towards accomplishing your goals, you will run into some staid bumps along the way. *Think and Grow Rich* highlights the power of focus and determination in reference to getting what you want out of life. This book is full of thought-provoking and relevant material for anyone looking to achieve their goals.

There are countless other books that can help equip young professionals for meaningful careers and lives; and these references provide a start to an endless journey of career and personal development. For more reading ideas, refer to the article: 30 business books every professional should read before turning 30.



Mining is for all, male and female alike

By Nonkululeko (Nonku) Thandiwe Mabuza



We as an industry and a nation at large will benefit greatly from a new wave of innovation and thought. The way we conduct business will change and that will offer us, as industry leaders, an opportunity to keep bettering ourselves.

Q: Tell us a bit about yourself

A: My name is Nonkululeko Thandiwe Mabuza, everyone calls me Nonku. I was born in Mpumalanga, grew up in KwaZulu-Natal, then moved to Gauteng for my tertiary education. I'm currently living and working in the North West Province. I'm the eldest of two sisters and two brothers, raised by a super mom who is a teacher in a local high school back home in Kamaqkeza in Nkomazi.

Q: Why did you choose this as your career path?

A: I chose mining because I thought hard hats were cool. It was a toss-up between the construction and mining industries. I applied for a mining bursary when I was still in high school and was able to complete my BSc (Hons) degree in Mining Engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Q: What does a typical day look like for you?

A: No one day is the same, typically I'm at work

for 10 to 14 hours each day. I start most days with scrutinizing safety and production reports from the previous shift and streamline activities for the day. I ensure that the necessary resources in terms of technical services and engineering are in place to service the crews underground. I also maintain relations with the Health and Safety Committee on the shaft as well as the resident trade union. I go underground to attend to critical areas or activities. My core function is to deliver safe production targets within budget.

Q: What is the one most important piece of advice you have received and still carry with you today?

A: Your reputation will always precede you. Don't compromise your integrity and values for the sake of getting ahead, let your work output speak on your behalf in boardrooms before you even set foot in them.

Q: If you could give advice to a younger version of yourself in relation to key learnings in the industry, what would that advice be?

A: Learn from every person you come into contact with at work. Even those who are not willing to teach you.

Q: What are some of the personality traits one needs to have in order to make it in the industry?

A: One needs to be resilient in this industry. You must be teachable and patient in the process of learning and climbing up the ranks. One must be a self-starter and have a positive attitude.



Q: With the industry predominantly male-dominated, what are your words of encouragement to young professional females entering the industry?

A: Mining is for all, males and females. From the onset of your career, you need to decide how you want to be treated or perceived. The way you dress and interact with males on the operation will determine how you are perceived; this applies to seniors and subordinates. In all that you do, aim to be treated like others and produce excellent results so that your work output speaks louder than your gender.

Q: If you had a magic wand, what are some of the changes you would implement?

A: I would wave that wand and open the minds of every man and woman who are in a position of leadership to the benefits of nurturing and developing a more inclusive environment for young female professionals to grow and be established. Females are an untapped reserve of ideas and ingenuity that can benefit the industry at large.

Q: What makes you laugh?

A: I find joy and laughter in the simple things in life!

Q: What keeps you up at night (industry-related)?

A: Every life that has been entrusted under my care at my operation, as well as the business as a whole and my responsibility to ensure that it is profitable in the long run to ensure sustained employment for all.

Q: What is your all-time favourite book and why?

A: Kaffir Boy by Mark Mathabatha. I read it while I was still young and in high school and it primed me to develop a resilient attitude to flourish and triumph despite hardships.

Q: What has kept you going in the industry with all the challenges/discrimination faced by women?

A: The knowledge that I can do all things through Christ who sustains me. Every challenge, and there have been many, has only made me more determined to stay and work harder so that it can be easier for those who will come after me.

Q: What is your favourite holiday destination and why?

A: Mozambique. In the few times that I've been there it's offered me a complete break from my work, which is necessary to be able to perform at optimum levels.

Q: What are your thoughts on 4IR?

A: I think we as an industry and a nation at large will benefit greatly from a new wave of innovation and thought. The way we conduct business will change and that will offer us, as industry leaders, an opportunity to keep bettering ourselves, and in so doing manage the inevitable culture change that will come, as well as ensuring that the necessary skills are in place to mine safer and more sustainable.

Q: Where do you see the industry in the next five years?

A: I think the changes that I have witnessed in the last few years in terms of creating a more inclusive environment for males and females and all races will start paying off. The move towards a more technological approach will also start yielding results.

The fourth industrial revolution will bring about mind-blowing opportunities



By Sinenhlanhla Khalipha Zulu

Q: Tell us a bit about yourself

A: I have been working in the finance sector for just over 10 years (split between investment banking and, more recently, asset management). My role involves financing mining and metals, infrastructure, and natural resources projects, corporates and companies on the African continent, including South Africa. My undergraduate degree is in mining engineering from Wits University, but I have been on the financing side of the industry for most of my professional career. I also hold an MBA from the University of Cambridge Judge Business School and passed level I in the CFA exam. From a personal perspective, I am originally from Durban in South Africa and am the eldest of four children.

Q: Why did you choose this as your career path?

A: I chose to study mining engineering because of the diverse career opportunities that exist in this field (from production and rock engineering to commodity marketing and finance, for example). Our economy in South Africa was built on mining and I had a fascination with the industry when I was younger. However, in my final year of studying I developed a deep interest in mining finance after completing the Mining Financial Valuation 4th-year course at Wits. I also had the opportunity to work internationally after joining the graduate programme at one of the largest banks globally, which was very attractive to me. I have never looked back.

Q: What does a typical day look like for you?

A: My day typically involves plenty of due diligence, i.e. speaking to project developers

and obtaining information on their projects in order to analyse risk and help inform the financing decision process. Depending on the stage of the deals, my daily duties can also involve reading technical studies, working on financial models, and reading legal agreements and documentation. On some days I present and defend deals to internal committees to obtain the necessary approvals and support to finance the transactions that I work on.

Q: What is the one most important piece of advice you have received and still carry with you today?

A: Your reputation will always precede you. Don't compromise your integrity and values for the sake of getting ahead, let your work output speak on your behalf in boardrooms before you even set foot in them. I also travel to sites to visit the projects that we finance. They are usually located in remote parts of African countries. The most interesting country I have visited for this purpose was Burkina Faso, where we went on a due diligence mission for a gold mining project.

Q: If you could give advice to a younger version of yourself in relation to key learnings in the industry, what would that advice be?

A: To always stay up to date with what's happening in the economy and in general in the world. Current affairs are incredibly important and have a direct or indirect effect on every job in the mining industry. With Twitter and Google, there are really no excuses anymore.

Q: What are some of the personality traits one needs to have in order to make it in the industry?

A: I believe it's crucial to possess a strong work

ethic, as we face a lot of deadlines and targets. It's important to work hard, remain self-disciplined, and never cease being a self-starter.

Q: With the industry predominantly male-dominated, what are your words of encouragement to young professional females entering the industry?

A: To young women entering the industry – everything usually gets easier with time and with practice. And the challenges you will face are there to test you and to build you. There are also others ahead of you who have been through the most and are there to support and guide you. I would encourage you to reach out to them and expand your network.

Q: If you had a magic wand, what are some of the changes you would implement?

A: There are many positive changes that mining companies have brought about in the communities in which they operate. However, I wish that mining companies had started their environmental and social efforts much earlier to have positive impacts on their local communities. If the current trend of 'care for E&S' had started in the early 1900s and on a much wider and more aggressive scale, perhaps we would be experiencing less of the socio-economic challenges we experience today.

Q: What makes you laugh?

A: Memes on social media! Twitter is hilarious.

Q: What keeps you up at night (industry-related)?

A: Eskom's challenges are a real threat to our economy. But I do have faith that the more pressing issues will be attended to over the short to medium term.

Q: What is your all-time favourite book and why?

A: Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie is one of my favourite books. I have a preference for fiction literature, particularly books that explore themes relevant to our continent. Americanah is an exciting and gripping story of a young African woman exploring her identity and place in the world. The story is wonderfully

put together and is an exciting escape from the pressures of everyday life.

Q: What has kept you going in the industry with all the challenges/discrimination faced by women?

A: Our parents' generation didn't have access to the opportunities we are exposed to now. I think it is our duty of as the current generation of women to occupy spaces that were previously closed off to us, so that future generations are able to freely pick careers in any field without being discouraged by issues such as gender discrimination.

Q: What is your favourite holiday destination and why?

A: Of all the places I have been, South Africa remains one of the most beautiful countries globally, where you can get the most value for money. For amazing food, rich cultural experience and history, nature, and great weather all year round – our country has it all. It is my favourite holiday destination!

Q: What are your thoughts on 4IR?

A: The possibilities that will come about as a result of the fourth industrial revolution are mind-blowing, especially for the mining sector. Not only will it likely create new markets for some of the minerals which we mine, but it will also create new digitalization opportunities for the way in which we mine and process minerals. I hope that all stakeholders in our sector are ready and prepared to re-skill and upskill our people so that we keep job losses to a minimum.

Q: Where do you see the industry in the next five years?

A: I am generally optimistic about the future of mining in South Africa, even though the industry is facing a lot of headwinds (policy uncertainty, resource depletion, the performance of the global economy). These challenges will force industry stakeholders to embrace innovation at a much more accelerated rate in order to keep costs sustainable, to keep up with international trends, and more importantly, to keep the South African mining industry globally relevant and up to date.

'Current affairs are incredibly important and have a direct or indirect effect on every job in the mining industry'


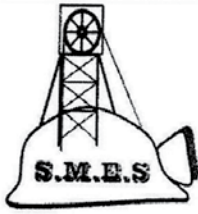




UNIVERSITY STUDENT BODIES

Compiled by: Mmasenwe Takalo

SAIMM-YPC EWG consists of the Pretoria and Johannesburg branches. The Pretoria branch comprises the University of South Africa (UNISA) and the University of Pretoria (UP) whereas the Johannesburg branch consists of the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) and University of Johannesburg (UJ). All these universities have their own student bodies which cater the needs of the students and have different missions within each respective University.

UNISA		<p>UNISA Mining Society (UMS) is a structure within the University of South Africa (UNISA). UMS, which is an acronym for UNISA Mining Society, acknowledges its existence as an autonomous substructure of Science Engineering and Technology Student Association (SETSA). UMS represents students in Mining Engineering and Mine Survey.</p>
UP		<p>The Tuks Mining Society (TMS) is a student-led society and the sub-house of the mining department; which forms part of Faculty of Engineering Built-Environment and Information Technology (EBIT). It is under the supervision of the mining department and aims not only at enhancing students, social and leadership skills, but also creates a platform for students to network with other students, lecturers, alumni members and industry professionals. It was founded in the 1990s with the initial purpose of addressing the social needs of its members.</p>
		<p>The Metallurgical Sub-house is a student organisation of the Department of Material Science and Metallurgical Engineering at the University of Pretoria. The main objectives are to serve as a communication link between students in the Department of Materials Science and Metallurgical Engineering and the staff members, to assist in organising academic, social and other events for the department, and to assist in marketing Metallurgical Engineering as a career and a study field.</p>
		<p>The CHMT (Chemical and Metallurgy) School Council is an extension and operates under the governance of the SRC. We are here to voice out our students' concerns, interests and suggestions.</p>

UNIVERSITY STUDENT BODIES *(continued)*

W I T S	 <p>SCHOOL OF MINING ENGINEERING</p>	<p>The Mining Engineering Student Council (MESOC) is committed to exemplary student leadership in defining the competent Mining Engineer that the Wits School of Mining Engineering is producing for the mining industry and the country at large. To this end, it aims to encourage academic excellence and promote equality of opportunity through effective, accountable and transparent student leadership.</p>
		<p>The Student in Mining Engineering Society (SMES) is a student body recognised by Wits University with the main objective to represent and address the social needs of its members (mainly consisting of Wits Mining Engineering Students). It is concerned with linking students to the school, alumni and the industry through different events.</p>
U J		<p>We, the School of Mines students of the University of Johannesburg, drawn from various cultural, religious, social, economic and political backgrounds, conscious of the historic disparities within the South African mining industry in general; are committed to the building and sustenance of a non-racial, non-sexist and democratic institution.</p>
		<p>MESO is an organisation concerned with the holistic development of its constituents. Academic excellence combined with social development is the goal. MESO seeks to create an environment that will allow for an improved relationship between students and the Metallurgical Department. Our aim is also to build a bridge between students and the institution (University of Johannesburg) and industry.</p>
		<p>Women in Mining of the University of Johannesburg is a constituency of female students in mining related courses (Mining Engineering, Mineral Surveying and Metallurgical Engineering). We are the flowers of our nation, springing from different roots of cultures, religion and race. In unity, we stand through our diversity with the main aim to empower each other.</p>
		<p>METESSO is the students structure for the METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING department at the vaal university of technology, we are mainly an academic structure that believes in the transformation of students through education. We are dedicated to inspire, motivate and create a platform for all METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING students to study effectively. We are under the supervision of the METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING department of the vaal university of technology, engineering council of South Africa, engineering students society and the student representative council of the vaal university of technology</p>

CREDIBILITY: IMPRESS YOUR BOSS AND PROVE YOUR WORTH AT WORK

Establishing credibility as a young professional is no easy task. Having just graduated and with little work experience, you will quickly find out that people will dismiss you because of your age and youthful appearance. You will feel like you have to work extra hard in order to establish credibility. Here are some ways that can help you to establish credibility as a young 20-something professional.

1. Look The Part

As a young professional, one of the first things individuals will notice about you is your youthful appearance. You can't really control it if you look young, but you can control if you dress young. Dressing sharp is important for professionals of any age; however, it's especially important for young professionals trying to establish credibility. Dressing the part shows people that you take what you do very seriously. Make sure you always look the part and don't give anyone a reason to dismiss your credibility based on your appearance.

2. Borrow Credibility

One of the best ways to establish credibility as a young professional is to borrow it from someone — a colleague, a boss, a mentor — who already has a lot of it. What this means is that you get someone well recognized in your industry to co-sign you with an introduction, reference, etc. Any time that you can have a mentor facilitate an introduction to a customer or investor, it's much more likely for them to engage with you.

3. Know Your Stuff

As a young professional, you will lack experience compared to others, but it doesn't mean you have to lack knowledge. Do your best to learn about the industry that you work in very quickly. What you lack in experience you can make up for in knowledge. People will underestimate how much you know, so prove them wrong. Never stop learning and be sure to stay up to date on current industry practices.

4. Always Deliver

Make sure you always deliver. You won't get too many second chances early on as a young professional. It's important that you always do your utmost to deliver. It's inevitable that you will make mistakes, but regardless, if you have to deliver something late or not in its entirety, deliver it to the best degree you can and learn from your mistakes. Never make excuses, because as soon as you do that you will quickly begin losing your credibility.

5. Be A Team Player

To establish credibility with your peers, you must be willing to be a team player. If you want credibility, your audience has to know and understand you. They will never be able to do this if you are a lone wolf. Be willing to work closely with those in your team/organization. Show them that you'd like to contribute effort to a shared cause. The more your team gets to know you and your capabilities, the more trust and credibility you instill in them.

6. Put In Work

Numbers talk. At the end of the day, the easiest way to establish credibility is through achievements and accolades. The easiest way to accomplish achievements is through relentless amounts of hard work. Understand that these accomplishments will take time, but that's where being young comes to your advantage. Time is on your side. Put in those long hours, but more importantly, get results. As soon as you start showing results, people will look at you differently. Establishing credibility is a lot easier when you have numbers to back you up.

7. Establish A Positive Web Presence

Having a web presence, specifically a positive web presence, is absolutely vital for any young professional trying to establish credibility. LinkedIn is the go-to social site for professional networking. Start by creating a LinkedIn profile and build your network on it. You should make sure any social media profiles or posts you have on the internet reflect a positive reputation.

Lastly, enjoy the process and be patient. Credibility isn't something that will be created overnight, but it's something that will be established after endless evenings of hard work.



Adapted from "Impress Your Boss & Prove Your Worth At Work" by Eric Santos

- <http://www.askmen.com/money/career/establishing-credibility-in-your-job.html>

Mining and metallurgy best practice graduate development programme guideline









PURPOSE

The purpose of this best practice' guide is to contribute to recruitment and retention of local and regional talented and qualified persons in the disciplines of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering, and engineering in general in the mining and metallurgical industry. Its objective is to enhance the satisfaction of recent graduates as they make decisions in their early career development, and to provide a framework for companies that many not have a system in place to guide and assist recent graduates. The document introduces the different components that should be part of a graduate development programme. The actual details and implementation will depend on the conditions in the company, as well as the individual graduate.








WHY DO WE NEED A BEST PRACTICE?

The SAIMM believes that many graduates will find their own way in companies of their own choice. They will be guided by quality development programme and will map out a career path that suits them and the company they belong to. However, the SAIMM also believes that the publication of a 'best practice' graduate development programme will assist not only the recent graduate, but also the smaller companies in making the most of the important early stages of the employment relationship. First impressions are important for both the recent graduate and the company. Of necessity, this 'best practice' is generic.









Generic components of an engineering graduate development programme(GDP)

 <p>RECRUITMENT INTERVIEW</p>	<p>It is common practice to arrange recruitment interviews, which are the start to the possible employment relationship. At the interview there should be frank and honest discussion of the future expectations from both the employer and the prospective employee. The discussions should be minuted or recorded for both the interviewee and the employer.</p> <p>The interview should not be time-limited, and the graduate should be encouraged to interrogate the employer's expectations and the opportunities or problems that could be expected. The graduate may be given the opportunity, or be required, to place in writing his understanding of the important parts of the interview process, before finally accepting the employment conditions. One of the important discussion points will be the details of the development programme that the graduate will participate in. This will ensure no misunderstanding as the development of the graduate proceeds.</p>
 <p>EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT</p>	<p>As well as the normal conditions of service for any employee, an employment contract with a recent graduate should include special sections dealing with the development programme. This will formalize the employer's expectations and ensure that the graduate understands the purpose and implications of the development programme.</p>
 <p>TIMELINE FOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME</p>	<p>A graduate development programme for engineers should be a minimum of two years and be flexible, depending on the nature of the operations and the opportunities available. This timeline should be at least as long as it takes to complete a 'Stage 2 License to Practice' type qualification e.g. ECSA registration.</p> <p>Depending on the company's long-term objectives, the development plan could be as long as five years. After this length of time it would be expected that several levels of work have been concluded and that the graduate would have reached a substantive position in the company structure that is commensurate with the investment in the development programme. Milestones must be identified in the development programme.</p>
 <p>INDUCTION</p>	<p>All engineering graduates should be given a comprehensive induction into the company. This will involve activities such as occupational health and safety courses, visits to all sections of the company, and meeting with senior managers and executives across the broad range of activities of the company. The induction should take at least two weeks and be as comprehensive as possible. It could include such social functions as lunch with the executive team and an introduction to social activities and to other similar individuals.</p>
 <p>CAREER MAPPING</p>	<p>Any career development programme should have a long-term objective – 'Where would you expect to be in 10–15 years?' The development programme should be aimed at this long-term perspective and include the typical timelines for steps to be completed towards the goal. A graduate will always have ambitions (whether realistic or not) that involve a longterm view, and the objectives of the development programme should be aligned with this long-term view. This component will (like many others) be adjusted to meet the reality of the individual's progress through the development programme.</p>
 <p>EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING</p>	<p>Many graduates will have unrealistic expectations of their abilities in the real world of work. The gap between academic learning and the operations of an organization is particularly wide in the engineering disciplines. Experiential learning is the learning that takes place in the work environment, dealing sometimes with routine operational matters that the graduate could find particularly challenging (getting your hands dirty). This would be particularly true in most careers in the mining and metallurgy fields. The graduate may feel that the operational components are below their level, while the company expects the graduate to be particularly skilled in these operational aspects. This conflict situation must be resolved by the formal inclusion in the graduate's development programme of the detail of experiential learning required by the company. Time periods for the operational components of experiential learning should be limited to ensure that the graduate realizes that this is for the purpose of development and understanding rather than operational performance. The development of any graduate will depend on his/her life experiences. Flexibility must be maintained in the programme to develop the necessary skills before progressing to new areas of development.</p> <p>Operational work skills breed a different type of confidence than academic university skills. Attempts must be made in the development programme to integrate academic skills with operational skills. This is best done by including project work with the operational skills development so that a degree of intellectual activity can be incorporated into the operational skills development. As an example, a mining engineer who is required to learn how to charge up blast-holes with explosives could also be assigned a project on methods for tamping of holes. This ensures that intellectual capacity is included, and may result in a positive improvement in operations. This will in turn build the graduate's confidence.</p> <p>Experiential learning should be supervised by an experienced and qualified person. Care must be exercised in the selection of the supervisor so that the maximum benefit is achieved and good work habits are cultivated.</p>

Generic components of an engineering graduate development programme(GDP)

 <p>FORMAL COURSES</p>	<p>Graduates are employed by companies for different purposes. Any development programme for graduates must include both in-house and external, formal development courses where the graduate would be expected to gain theoretical and/or practical knowledge for the purpose of employment. Beyond the purely utilitarian courses, the graduate should be given the opportunity to develop a broad range of additional knowledge linked to the company operations. One would hope that the purpose of employment of a graduate would be to develop such a person into senior positions, and this would be achieved by broad development and promoting the habit of lifelong learning. Topics such as conflict management, report writing, assertiveness, language proficiency, communication, project planning, personal finance, management finance, specialist software etc. as appropriate, should be included in the development plan. Individual performance and interest in the courses must be monitored.</p> <p>The need for special courses could be identified through formal psychometric tests – naturally, graduates arrive in the company with different levels of positive attributes and deficiencies. A strong graduate development programme will include psychometric tests to identify areas of strength and weakness. A graduate should admit existing weaknesses and be grateful for the opportunity to overcome these weaknesses through interventions supported by the company.</p> <p>Even physical fitness may be a requirement, and in any case, any graduate should be convinced that mental and physical fitness result in better work performance. This could well be included in a comprehensive graduate development programme.</p>
 <p>CULTURAL ADAPTATION</p>	<p>Every company has a corporate culture. The graduate should be made aware of the company norms of behaviour (e.g. dress code), timekeeping, bureaucracy, reporting formalities, protocols, outside work activities (community work), expectation etc. that are seen as an important part of cultural adaption. The graduate should be exposed to these aspects as early in the development programme as possible.</p>
 <p>MENTORING</p>	<p>Beyond the formalized training activities and line management functions, every recently employed graduate should seek out (with the aid of the company) a suitable mentor. Such a person would normally be within the company, but this may not necessarily be so. A mentor would be some person who has reached a senior position in the direction that the graduate wishes to follow. The mentor would not be within three line-management levels of the graduate. The purpose of explicitly including such a person in the development programme is to ensure early detection of problems and to maximize the potential of the graduate. The mentor would be selected by the graduate. Formalized, regular interaction would take place between mentor and mentee with discussions on both work and social problems and opportunity areas.</p>
 <p>CONFIDENCE BUILDING</p>	<p>Included in the individualized graduate development programme, there would be a programme of 'confidence building'. If areas of weakness have been identified, then logical small steps are taken to overcome the weaknesses through the inclusion of meaningful step-by-step confidence builders. In any event, confidence must be justified by the achievement of certain goals within the development programme. This could include such items as visits to the workplace by senior officials, panel interviews, work project reports of success etc.</p>
 <p>CAREER/ DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS EVALUATION</p>	<p>Formalized progress interviews conducted by senior officials must be incorporated into the graduate development programme. These would be more frequent at the start of the employment contract, e.g. every three months during the first year and at least twice per year in the subsequent years.</p>
 <p>PROVIDING CHALLENGES</p>	<p>Any graduate needs to be intellectually challenged, particularly in the early stages of the employment contract. The graduate should be given substantive research work that is appropriate to the long-term outcomes of the development programme.</p> <p>Responsibility should be given for substantive work as early as practically possible. A graduate without challenges will become dissatisfied and stagnate.</p>
 <p>PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES</p>	<p>Graduates are innovative. Opportunity should be given as early as possible for the graduate to make a substantive contribution appropriate to his skills. This can be in the work environment or the social environment. Opportunities for self-development should be provided and supported. The innovative spirit must be nurtured for the long-term development of the graduate.</p>

Generic components of an engineering graduate development programme(GDP)

 <p>INTER- AND INTRA-COMPANY PLACEMENTS</p>	<p>As opportunities arise and wherever possible, the graduate should visit or work in as broad a range of activities as possible during the development programme. International perspectives have a positive influence on the operations, especially if applied through youthful intellect. The positive results of such opportunities will impact both on the graduate and the company. Intra-company visits and work opportunities in different sections of the operations give great perspective and develop the graduate optimally for the long term.</p>
 <p>PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND SYMPOSIUMS</p>	<p>During the GDP, the graduate should be encouraged to become a member of the appropriate professional body or learned society, and to participate in its activities.</p>
 <p>PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION – ECSA</p>	<p>As a qualified engineer expected to do ‘engineering work’ as defined in the Built Environment Act, the graduate must be supported and coached in accordance with the requirements of ECSA. The graduate should register as a ‘Candidate Engineer’ at the appropriate level for the work he is expected to be involved with in the long term – Professional Engineer, Professional Engineering Technologist, Professional Engineering Technician, or Professional Certificated Engineer. This registration also depends on the base qualification. Supporting Engineering Professional mentors should be appropriately identified and approached. ECSA stage 2 professional development towards appropriate registration should be monitored as progress occurs. The whole of the ECSA registration process should be part of the graduate development programme unless the choice of career path is not particularly related to engineering work.</p> <p>ECSA demands Continuous Professional Development (CPD points) activities. These activities must be carried out at accredited engineering functions so as to ensure lifelong learning. This is in line with the requirements of a successful graduate development programme.</p>
 <p>CONFLICT INDICATORS</p>	<p>Recent graduates may become despondent or frustrated at some time during the development programme. Mechanisms must be put in place to identify these conditions so as to maximize the effective development of the individual. Reporting and communication must be a major component of the development programme. This, together with open dialogue, will ameliorate the effects and provide for early detection of such conflict conditions.</p>
 <p>ESTABLISHING AND UTILIZING TALENTS</p>	<p>Graduates will often bring with them far more than just technical academic knowledge. These attributes or talents may be utilized and developed further during the development programme to the benefit of the graduate and the organization. Particularly such skills as teaching, sport, and music could be considered.</p> <p>The graduate should be encouraged to participate in the development of others using his additional talents or skills. This will develop community engagement and respect within the community.</p>
 <p>SOCIAL INTEGRATION</p>	<p>Graduates must be integrated into the community as well as in the work environment, and should be required to present themselves in socially acceptable ways. This could be in terms of cultural understanding (appropriate behaviour in special conditions), etiquette, dress, introductions, names, public speaking, presentations etc. Such development should form a part of the graduate development programme.</p>
 <p>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>Graduates must participate in community projects on a ‘voluntary’ basis. This should be a part of the graduate development programme.</p>
 <p>INDIVIDUALITY</p>	<p>Although there are generic components to the ideal graduate development programme, it must be emphasized that each programme should be tailored to take into account the particular discipline of the graduate, specific needs of the graduate, and in particular, requirements of the company.</p>

