

TESTIMONY OF LEADERSHIP & PROJECT DEVELOPMENT



**Nelson Mandela
Metropolitan
University**

for tomorrow

• PO Box 77000 • Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
• Port Elizabeth • 6031 • South Africa • www.nmmu.ac.za
• South Africa • www.nmmu.ac.za

Centre for Research, Technology and Innovation

Faculty of Education

Tel: +27 (0)41 504 42565

Paul.webb@nmmu.ac.za

26 June 2010

Re: Teacher of the Year Award – Andre' du Plessis

I am able to commend Andre' du Plessis' for the 'Teacher of the Year' award. My commendation is based on the fact that over the past three years he designed and researched an effective teaching and learning programme to promote the implementation of IT in schools. The programme was designed to meet the needs of the critical and developmental outcomes of the National Curriculum Statement and the South African *Draft White Paper on e-Education*. In order to achieve this he focused on the development of computer literacy in teachers using a 'cyberhunt' approach to introduce the Internet. He successfully managed the process, showed a high level of innovation, and effectively met all the aims and objectives he set out to achieve.

The participants in this project rated his teaching ability highly, both in anonymous written evaluations and anecdotally in conversations with other academics in the Faculty of Education. He has continued to champion the cause of teacher development in the field of IT and is currently involved in not only promoting teaching and learning strategies in schools around the Missionvale campus, but in a process aimed at providing connectivity and access to the Internet for the schools, teachers and learners with whom he works. In order to do this he has involved a number of stakeholders, including providers of wireless bandwidth and technical assistance within the IT service department at the NMMU.

Andre's teaching abilities are highly regarded by his colleagues who work closely with him and he is a valued member of the DG Murray Project team. His contribution to this project is a teaching and learning programme which aims at developing computer literacy in teachers and principals in the participating schools, both for academic and administrative purposes. His enthusiasm, dedication and academic capabilities have been recently recognised by his election as southern African representative of the International Organisation for Science and Technology Education (IOSTE).

Yours faithfully

P. Webb