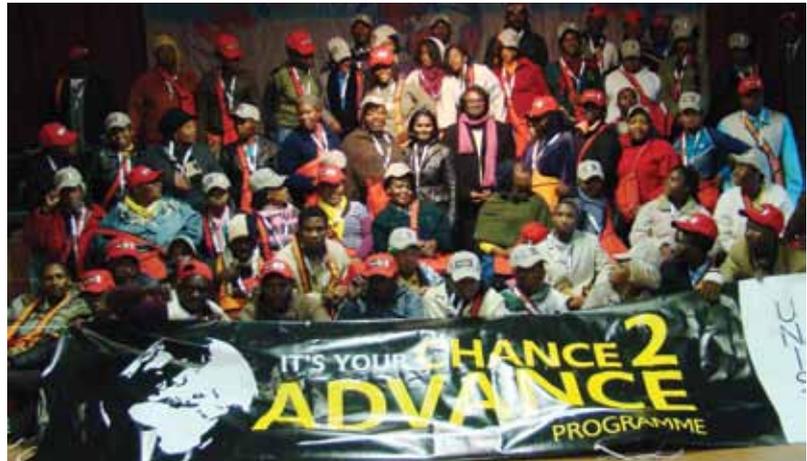


Community conversations created in KZN

The Chance 2 Advance programme, an initiative of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor's office, offered the KwaZulu-Natal communities of Wentworth, Oakford, and Isnembe more than 100 free learning programmes recently.

Wentworth became a learning community, with 82 classes taking place across 14 venues over the course of three weeks. The programmes targeted NGOs, principals, teachers and pupils, faith communities, and the public. In September, at the rural sites of Oakford and Isnembe, people requested practical skills training. Enthusiastic community members crossed the sugarcane-covered hills to arrive at their classes ready for learning through teamwork, practical exercises, and group presentations. In total, the three initiatives reached 10 000 participants.

Project Manager, Dr Genevieve James, and her team returned from KZN touched, emotional and humbled by the hunger to learn demonstrated by people who had so little to live on. "The participating communities were exposed to a range of learning initiatives that were related to their own contextual needs. They discovered the joys and benefits of learning that is relevant to life, and began to encourage each other in building a culture of learning. Through the various workshop offerings, ranging from employment skills and education to healthcare and creative arts, the programme contributed to skills development and social justice awareness."



Oakford residents turned out in force for the community conversations workshop.



Participants of the Wentworth workshop on hand and power tools and welding were excited about their new skills.



The two-day workshop in Isnembe introduced community members to permaculture food gardening and promoted greening and biodiversity.