

ON-CAMPUS COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Sci-Enza

Background

Sci-Enza, a science centre of the University of Pretoria, is the first and oldest science centre both in Africa and South Africa. A science centre is an educational facility that uses effective methods to teach science, technology, mathematics and engineering. These methods rely mainly on the use of interactive displays, events and activities, but science centres also use new technologies, such as social media, web-based education programmes and remote teaching and learning techniques.

Challenge And Community Needs

Science centres are sources of non-formal learning. They are specifically designed to demystify science and technology and make it accessible to the public. Learning about science, technology, mathematics and engineering happens most efficiently in the environments that science centres create, i.e. fun, hospitable, hands-on and minds-on, participative, and partially structured.

With 40 years of existence, Sci-Enza has set trends and benchmarks throughout the science centre community in Southern Africa. Our strength lies in our strong reputation, history as a community resource and a unique combination of creativity, understanding and practicality – a factor that has earned us the trust of the communities we serve.

Impact

Our mission is to make science accessible to learners of all ages in a fun and entertaining way and in doing so to raise science awareness. We do this by offering interactive STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) experiences, memorable exhibitions, engaging programmes, hands-on workshops and therefore contribute to developing South Africa as a more scientifically literate nation.

We are dedicated to creating a learning environment where science and imagination unite! Sci-Enza aims to:

- foster public awareness and appreciation of science;
- to enhance the quality of science and technology learning;
- to showcase University of Pretoria research;
- to build partnerships to develop our national role in science communication and education; and
- to create interactive experiences that inspire, challenge and engage so as to increase awareness of science for all.

Each year, Sci-Enza engages with over 20 000 children, young people and adults through its in-reach and outreach activities. We enrich people's lives and their understanding through engagement with science of local, national and global relevance.

