Excellence in Technology-Enhanced Teaching and Learning Award

Nominee: **Mrs Riefqah Sasman**
School: **Heideveld Secondary School**
Cluster: **Metro Central and Metro South**
District: **Metro Central Education District**

Mrs Riefqah Sasman is a passionate, vibrant, energetic and highly dedicated English First Additional Language teacher at Heideveld Secondary School. She is fully committed to the use of information communication and technology (ICT) to enhance the learning experience of her learners and continuously seek to add variety to traditional teaching and assessment methodologies. She manages the ICT team at her school and conducts workshops to empower the teachers on how to integrate technology in the classroom.

She is responsible for the development of online material, including the uploading of material to the learner management system, learner devices and other future new technology. She develops presentations, multimedia animations, podcasts, tutorials and graphics to support learning and organises development activities incorporating best practices in visual and multimedia design. She makes use of design, development and ongoing support of online learning portals as virtual learning resources.

Her lessons are based on the constructionism theory where learners are required to build new knowledge on existing knowledge on their own, focusing on 21st century skills. She focuses on creativity and critical thinking as the two most important skills to enhance the learning experience.

She trains the teaching staffs of various districts at the Cape Teaching and Leadership Institute after school and on weekends to increase their familiarity with technology tools. Mrs Sasman has facilitated many ICT workshops to share her knowledge and has done presentations at two conferences on behalf of her school and Microsoft. She is also cyber ambassador (online safety) for the Western Cape Education Department and has successfully completed the introductory Information Communication and Technology (ICT) Integration short course at the University of Pretoria in 2018. Mrs Sasman is currently a Western Cape Education Department (WCED) bursary holder pursuing her BEd Honours in Computer-Integrated Education.

She has developed an English First Additional Language (FAL) website where learners can download information about the subject. A QR code that she designed, gives learners access to the school's website. Her lesson designs include feedback that is insightful, regular, timeous, consistent and available to all stakeholders. She includes backward design and Bloom's Taxonomy in the development of online learning and uses the Google classroom platform where she creates and uses rubrics as part of assessment.

Statistics show that over 750 learners and 300 teachers have benefited from her facilitation in ICT in the past three years. Part of the collaborative tools that she is using include Google docs, Padlet and the LMS system. The use of technology to teach short stories has been highlighted as one area where she applies technology in teaching extremely effectively.

Her teaching is regarded as very innovative because she creates an environment that interests learners, gives them choices, promotes autonomy and learner self-esteem, allows for a learner-centred pedagogy and appeals to the visual and auditory senses of learners.

Mrs Sasman is an inspirational role model and mentor to learners, teachers and parents. She leads by example, models life-long learning and prepares learners for the Fourth Industrial Revolution by teaching them ICT skills. She embeds social and emotional learning as well as character education in her teaching. One of her major development projects involves the building of computers from recycled parts that she and her learners collect. The successful use of LAN parties to get learners off the streets and constructively engaged is her contribution to social cohesion and keeping learners from gangsterism. She also initiated a sleeping bag initiative as yet another project in community upliftment.

Mrs Sasman regards herself as a committed teacher, is a true technology-in-education champion and is therefore nominated as a worthy recipient of the Excellence in Technology-Enhanced Teaching and Learning Award.