Excellence in Primary School Leadership

Nominee: **Ms Landeka Diamond**
School: **Westlake Primary School, Westlake**
Cluster: **Metro Central and Metro South**
District: **Metro South Education District**

Ms Landeka Diamond is the founder principal of West Lake Primary School in 2011 and subscribes to a situational leadership philosophy.

In her career thus far she spent nine years of planting the seed of education in the impoverished community of Westlake. She is leading a diverse and multicultural school consisting of learners with 13 different home languages from all over Africa.

Her school community consists of homes plagued by high unemployment, poverty, gangsterism, alcohol and substance abuse. Not only do these social issues impact directly on her learners' lives, but they also influence teachers' efforts to improve teaching and learning at the school. Ms Diamond, however, has high expectations of her school and strongly believes that poverty and current social circumstances will never determine the intelligence of the learner. She also believes that these learners can rise above their current situation and circumstances with the necessary encouragement and support that they receive from the school.

She is very passionate about her values-driven school environment as well as her values-based leadership and management approach to education. Ms Diamond exercises a consultative and egalitarian approach in the belief that active and equitable participation of all role players in decision-making processes will lead to improved results and dynamic team spirit. She engages in diligent strategic planning that includes teachers, non-teaching staff and parents to bring about positive change at school and the creation of a healthy and safe working environment to support teaching and learning on a day-to-day basis.

Ms Diamond has a Master's Degree in Education Administration, Planning and Social Policy and develops education managers in her capacity as deputy chairperson of the Education Management Association of South Africa. She is currently also involved in other organisations, such as Spirit of Africa, the American Embassy and the British Council, to assist with the hosting of international audiences from all over the world so that there can be engagement on matters of educational interest, whilst providing insight on the South African education system.

Ms Diamond leads by example and is an innovative and future-focused leader and manager who is a worthy nominee for this coveted award.