National Winner

Excellence in Technology-Enhanced Teaching and Learning

Name: Hortense Stegmann

School: Laerskool Welgemoed, Welgemoed

District: Metro North

Ms Hortense Stegmann is an accomplished educator, ICT facilitator, mentor and school leader whose work demonstrates how purposeful technology integration can transform teaching, learning, professional development and whole-school practice. As Acting Head of Academics at Welgemoed Primary School, she combines strong educational leadership with a clear vision for future-focused, values-driven learning.

Currently pursuing her PhD in cosmopolitan, values-driven learning, Hortense explores how technology-rich environments can promote responsible citizenship, collaboration, mutual respect and meaningful participation in an increasingly connected world. Her research directly informs her approach to creating digital learning opportunities that develop both technological competence and responsible, engaged citizens.

At Laerskool Welgemoed, she leads ICT integration through practical educator development and mentorship. Initiatives such as IT Champs, five-minute "IT Snacks" and termly "IT Gifts" provide educators with accessible opportunities to explore digital tools, experiment confidently and strengthen classroom practice. Her leadership has also contributed significantly to the school's digital infrastructure, including the establishment of a Foundation Phase Coding and Robotics laboratory, improved ICT systems and the scalable implementation of Microsoft across the school.

Hortense uses technology purposefully to enhance pedagogy rather than as an end in itself. Across Mathematics, Science, Social Sciences, Languages and the Arts, she integrates interactive learning, gamification, digital research and collaborative projects. Through *Micro:bit, Tinkercad*, block-based coding, *Python* and robotics, learners develop technical skills alongside creativity, critical thinking, communication, collaboration and problem-solving.

Her digital assessment practices provide immediate feedback, monitor progress and support differentiated learning. Learners are encouraged to take greater ownership of their development, while educators gain meaningful information to inform instruction. Her approach creates an inclusive, learner-centred environment that recognises diverse learning needs and empowers learners to participate actively in their education.

Her influence extends beyond her school through her work as a WCED ICT Facilitator and Transformation Agent, supporting district and eLearning initiatives and assisting schools with varying levels of digital readiness translate ICT training into sustainable classroom practice.

Hortense also champions responsible digital citizenship. As a WCED Cyber Effect Ambassador, she promotes online safety, privacy, responsible digital behaviour and awareness of cyberbullying, ensuring that technology usage is grounded in ethics, care and accountability.

Hortense Frances Stegmann exemplifies innovative, values-drßiven educational leadership. Her guiding motto, *"Nurture every learner's potential, empower growth, inspire blossoming brilliance"* captures the enduring impact of her work in strengthening learners, educators, schools and the wider education community.