



# JEDA NEWS



## Director's Desk

### Dear Friends

The new year has ushered in an exciting agreement between South Africa and the United States on 24 February 2020, when the 23-year old Tacoma-George Sister Cities partnership was enriched with a historic Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen international education between several United States Colleges in Washington State, as well as the JEDA Foundation.



**FLTR: Dr. Daria Willis, President Everett College, Tacoma Deputy May Keith Blocker, Acting George Mayor, Charlotte Clarke, Tacoma Mayor, Victoria Woodards, Prof. Quinton Johnson, President JEDA Foundation, Dr. Lin Zhou, President Bates College, Ms. Christine Blocker, Council Chair Bates College, Dr. Ivan Harrell, Tacoma College, Dr. Bridget Johnson, Director JEDA Foundation and Futuristic Education Director, Fred de Kock, at the Education Signing Ceremony, 24 February 2020. Read more about this feature story inside.**

The Futuristic Education Campus, which is the site earmarked for the development of a new university in George, was abuzz with activity. An agreement was signed by the Presidents of Tacoma College, Dr. Ivan Harrell, Everett College, Dr. Daria Willis, Bates College, Dr. Lin Zhou, JEDA Foundation, Prof. Quinton Johnson as well as the Mayor of Tacoma, Victoria Woodards and Acting Mayor of George, Charlotte Clarke. All parties strongly committed to the partnership, broadcast live by Eden FM.

The partnership will create a Presidential Education and Training Council, which will ensure: Staff and student exchange. research and innovation engagement, shared certificate, diploma and degree programme offerings, funding and investment as well as community capacity building. The partners concluded that it is vital to strengthen higher education for the advancement of our children in the fourth industrial age of robotics, artificial intelligence, coding, data analytics, virtual reality, automation and fabrication to ensure that they are digital pioneers who will succeed and prosper.

During January we supported our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Dux Awards Ceremony for the brightest learners in the District and ensured that the first three Joan Sonn Bursaries of R5000 each was awarded to the top matriculants. Our aim in working with the WCED and schools, is to support the latter to become the best performing Education District in the Western Cape and ultimately in South Africa. At the heart of this mission, we are training learners, teachers, principals, advisors, managers and leaders to develop their unique resilience in order to perform at their best, despite the complexity of life.

The most recent beneficiaries of our education initiatives were 100 educators trained by the JEDA Foundation in resilience, its life cycle, underlying foundations, characteristics and how to think, capacitate, act and excel in the face of adversity, and live life to the fullest. Another group who benefitted from our business education and skills transfer initiative was the Small Business Forum and its over 100 entrepreneurs. We supported their opening function of 2020 with our partners, Old Mutual, and hosted a powerful networking event around a play that we brought to the Arts Theatre called "Like A Boss", which was fantastically acclaimed. Everyone had great fun.

We celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2020 and thank you all for your magnificent support!

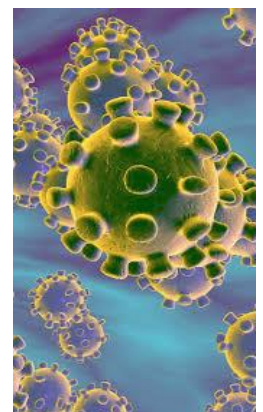
Dr. Bridget Johnson

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### Coronavirus

The virus has to date infected 116 711 and killed 4091 globally. Steps to prevent infection include washing hands with soap for 20 seconds; Elbow bumping instead of shaking hands; Coughing/sneezing into a tissue and disposing of it in a bin.





**Top from left to right:** JEDA President Quinton Johnson addressing the 100 educators from circuits 5, 6 and 7 in the Central Karoo, who learned about resilient leadership, values, characteristics and success against all odds on 29 February 2020.



## Diversity Conference



The WCED recently hosted its annual Diversity in Education Conference organized by their SLES Head, Mr. Roger Jacobs, in the Eden and Central Karoo Education District. **Top from left to right:** JEDA Director Dr. Bridget Johnson, who is flanked by ECKED Acting Director, Mr. Jewel Jonkers, welcomed her as well as Prof Quinton Johnson. He delivered the conference keynote address to over 200 teachers from across the District on 25 January 2020.



## Small Business



On 25 January 2020, the JEDA Foundation and Old Mutual sponsored an exciting and vibrant networking event for the Small Business Forum (SBF) called “Like A Boss”, in support of well over 100 black entrepreneurs at the George Oakhurst Theatre. JEDA President and SBF Chairman Quinton Johnson and Old Mutual Provincial Board Chairman Savarion Arendse, together with all the attendees, enjoyed the fabulous function with Howard Johnson, who gave a fantastic performance.



## Honouring Teachers



On 22 February, the JEDA Foundation held its Summer Certification Ceremony at the swanky Augusta View in George. The standing-room only event was a fabulous success with dozens of educators receiving their certificates for finishing a variety of courses including School Transformation and Resilience, School Leadership and Management as well as School Professional Education and Resilience. Leading the way were right top to bottom, Mrs. Ruth Miller, Acting Principal, New Dawn Park Primary, as well as Messrs. Morton van Rooyen, Francois Moll and Mark Mosdell as Principals of George, York and Knysna High Schools respectively. They and all their teachers received certificates from JEDA Foundation President Quinton Johnson and ECKED Acting Director, Mr. Jewel Jonkers. They were joined in the front row of the bottom image by Drr. Ivan Harrell, Lin Zhou and Daria Willis, as Presidents of Tacoma, Everett and Bates Colleges, with their executive staff in the United States of America.





After the JEDA Summer Certification Ceremony, guests had a great time on the rooftop of August View. The canapes were delicious and the conversations fantastic. The atmosphere was vibrant with many African-American legends infusing the celebratory evening with jazz, pop as well as rhythm and blues-making the event even more memorable.



## Feature Story - New Education Agreement

A historic international higher learning partnership has been forged at the Futuristic Education Campus in George on 24 February 2020.

An agreement between South Africa and the United States was signed **(Right)** by the Presidents of Tacoma College, Dr. Ivan Harrell, Everett College, Dr. Daria Willis, Bates College, Dr. Lin Zhou, JEDA Foundation, Prof. Quinton Johnson as well as the Mayor of Tacoma, Victoria Woodards and Acting Mayor of George, Charlotte Clarke. They all gathered on the field next to the George Family Market, as the early morning sun rose beyond the Outeniqua Mountains.



The partners concluded that it is vital to strengthen higher education for the advancement of our children in the fourth industrial age of robotics, artificial intelligence, coding, data analytics, virtual reality, automation and fabrication.

As Program Director, JEDA Foundation President and Futuristic Education Chair Quinton Johnson, provided the context of the American delegation visit. A few years ago, he engaged several leaders in the US, beginning with Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards **(Left)** who listened attentively to the plans for the new university in George. Together with George-Tacoma Sister Cities Chair Melannie Cunningham, they ensured that a highly influential delegation of educationists agreed to visit George and establish a first-ever partnership with a Presidential Education and Training Council, which will ensure:

1. faculty, staff and student exchange in SA and the USA;
2. research, innovation and entrepreneurial engagement;
3. shared certificate, diploma and degree offerings;
4. funding and investment;
5. community capacity building.

Cannon Reverend Lyndon du Plessis opened the ceremony in prayer for the 23-year Sister City partnership, education agreement and land dedicated to developing a new university in the Southern Cape. Acting George Mayor Charlotte Clarke being briefed by Futuristic Education Director, Fred de Kock **(Top Right)**, expressed her great delight and support for the education partnership. Mayor Victoria Woodards strongly endorsed the powerful bridge of education between Tacoma and George. She also declared her intention to return in 2022 to cut the ribbon to the new Futuristic Education University, in celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sister City Partnership. Director Fred de Kok reflected on the important role that education plays in uplifting communities and the need for a university to support this mission. Furthermore, the Presidents of all three US Colleges announced their great happiness for and support of the international teaching, learning, research and engagement connection between Tacoma and George. Also, Dr. Skip Rowland, pledged his global business networks from Seattle as partners. The event was broadcast live by Eden FM and all the guests enjoyed the historical and festive sense of the wonderful occasion.

