Johannesburg, South Africa
Grant Period: 2012-2014

Preparing Students for University

Bridge to Employment (BTE) in Johannesburg, South Africa has worked to prepare students for university and their future careers.

In partnerships with the University of Pretoria Empowerment program, BTE-Johannesburg hosted a range of activities to help prepare students for life after secondary school. For example, students participated in tutoring to better prepare them for the academic rigors of university. Students also participated in a range of activities from professional development workshops to mentoring and careers sessions.

After the first year, the program showed great promise for the students involved. All of the students reported they were aware of higher education opportunities and wanted to further their education after secondary school. They expressed that their confidence increased after being more exposed to the “outside world.” Additionally, students learned more about themselves, their intended field of study, and the entry requirements of university.

BTE-Johannesburg’s connection to the University of Pretoria and wide range of activities has clearly prepared secondary students for university and beyond.
Sooreka Vijai never imagined she would be an educator; she initially wanted to pursue in law. She believes that the best contribution to society and its youth is through education.

Sooreka Vijai joined the BTE program in 2013 as the school’s representative. She has been teaching for 17 years, 12 of which were spent at Midrand High School. She was able to attend the conference hosted in the Netherlands along with two student ambassadors. As the public speaking coach, she helped prepare students to speak in front of an audience of their peers as well as other people involved with the conference. Sooreka says, “Watching the BTE students taking on challenges, growing and maturing through them together as a collective, was inspiring.” She also says she considers, “it a privilege to be a part of this program, and opportunity to further positively contribute to the children’s lives, making a difference in [her] own little way.”