



## GRT-I's Adopt – a – School Campaign Kicks Off

**November 2024**

On Friday 26 July, the Adopt – a- School campaign kicked off at Pride Learning Academy in Hillbrow South. It is a partnership between Gauteng Research Triangle Inspired (GRT-I), University of Johannesburg (UJ) and Save Them Edu Project Non-profit organisation.

The campaign was initiated by GRT-I as part of their community engagement project to give back to the schools that are located within Hillbrow South. The Adopt - a - School campaign seeks to support local schools by promoting educational awareness through activities such as career talks, career expos, motivational sessions, study methods, and strategies for balancing academic life with pressure.

Yulender Mawelele, GRT-I Community Engagement Officer gave a motivational talk about her journey towards university and how she was able to obtain her qualification in Environmental Health. Edward Mashaba, Assistant Community Engagement Officer from GRT-Inspired educated learners about different career paths that are available in different universities and why it is important to stay competitive and focused on school.

Zizo Madlala from Save Them Edu Project spoke about the current trends and things that learners should consider when applying to universities. The community engagement team helped learners understand the career paths that they could pursue. Lastly, Save Them Edu Project applied for six learners while seven other learners submitted their documents to be assisted with application.

The learners were filled with happiness when they were assisted. One of the learners said that he is aware of the courses to apply for, and the requirements needed for his application to be successful. The Deputy Principal of the school said such initiatives are very important and useful. He then thanked the team for visiting the school and was also willing to collaborate with them for future initiatives for the school.

On 30 August, the GRT-I, the University of Johannesburg, Enactus University of Johannesburg, and the Save Them Edu Project collaborated at Phumelela Institute College as part of the Adopt – a -School campaign. This event was extended to learners from grade seven to 12.

Mawelele Yulender delivered another inspiring talk about her personal journey to university. She emphasized the importance of hard work in achieving one's goals. Sibongile Makena from Enactus provided a motivational speech focused on entrepreneurship, highlighting how Enactus supports and cultivates young entrepreneurs, preparing them to become prominent business leaders and contributors to their communities.

The Research Coordinator from GRT-I, Ntando Alfinete at the University of Johannesburg offered valuable tips on stress management and coping mechanisms. Edward Mashaba, spoke about various career pathways available at different universities. Teacher Simon Makena and the Principal expressed their optimism about the impact of such initiatives, noting that they inspire students to excel and enhance their academic performance.

