

Quotes as requested:

Partners in the project are the founder, Professor Shaheed Hartley and his non-profit initiative, Advancing Knowledge (NP); the Garden Cities Archway Foundation, and the Western Cape Education Department (WCED).

Prof Hartley says: “we have to start with the basics in terms of supporting teachers to have the confidence to teach science with an advanced level of understanding, knowledge and skills. Similarly, we have to be creative in providing learners with opportunities that will claim their interest and willingness to learn. Developing a strong culture of science teaching and learning will be a good start to prepare learners to take their place in the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR)”.

John Matthews, Group CEO of Garden Cities (NPC) (RF) says that the company’s CSI component, the Archway Foundation, was created to improve the opportunities for children in the Western Cape who, through historic circumstances, have not received equal resources to further their education. “The Science TLC project is one of the vehicles through which Garden Cities, as a non-profit corporation, invests in meeting South Africa’s future human resource needs in Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), particularly within a 4IR environment.”

Myrtle February, Chairperson of the Garden Cities Archway Foundation said that as a result of the lack of adequate facilities, Physical Science and all related subjects were not offered at many schools, so learners had to opt for those subjects which could be taught within the confines of conventional classrooms. This led to a general disinterest in science subjects and created a shortage of learners pursuing careers in that field. The Garden Cities Board, already strongly invested in education as part of its corporate social projects, considered this to be a worthwhile endeavour to support financially and so provide young learners with the facilities to compete on an equal footing with the top schools in the country.

“Given the opportunities, all learners have the ability to be successful. Social circumstances and lack of facilities should not determine their future success,” she says.