

**CALL FOR INPUT FOR “EDUCATION CONVERSATIONS FOR THE FUTURE”  
25–26 March 2019: Cape Town**

**“WHAT BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER AROUND A JOINT COMMON PURPOSE IS WORTHWHILE.” – Lenny Bruce**

**Overall theme for the conference: Quality Future-focussed Education  
Social media: #EduConvos**

The Western Cape Education Department (WCED), in partnership with all stakeholders and role players in the province, will host the Education Conversations for the Future Conference in Cape Town on 25–26 March 2019.

The aim of the conference is to bring together a wide and diverse range of voices in education and development in the province to discuss educational challenges with a focus on a rapidly changing technological and living environment.

The goal is to stimulate discussion, ideas and actions for the future of education in the province. The conference intends to strengthen collaboration and cohesion across the different structures, agencies, partners, districts, schools, unions, parent and youth formations, as well as develop a set of recommendations to consider for future planning and implementation in ensuring *quality education for every learner, in every classroom, in every school in the Western Cape*.

There are a variety of key issues currently facing education in the Western Cape. These include:

- How to adapt to a changing future of work and lifestyle shaped by the fourth industrial revolution and the need for 21<sup>st</sup> century skills
- Social justice
- Inequalities in school performance
- School safety, gangsterism and youth disaffection/unemployment
- Literacy and numeracy levels
- Teacher professional development

The event will thus be organised around the following themes:

- Relevant future-focused education
- Current best practices
- Digital learning
- Ongoing professional development
- Data-informed decision making

The event aims to be participatory, punchy and inspiring.

We are inviting all interested parties, school-based educators, district officials, higher education institutions, NGOs/NPOs, unions, community schools' initiatives (CSIs), the private sector and community and faith based organisations to **submit presentations, think-pieces, posters, dramatizations, music and art exhibitions that will stimulate conversations and ideas for better "Future-focused" quality education.**

Kindly submit presentations on whether you would like to be considered as a lead presenter, panel member or exhibitor by 31 January **2019**.

#### **Purpose of the conference:**

- An opportunity to build relationships and create a sense of community and alignment between people who are committed to the WCED's vision of "**Quality Education for Every Child, in every Classroom, in every School in the Western Cape**".
- To discuss, debate and innovate on future developments in education.
- To develop a set of recommendations to consider for future planning and implementation.
- To catalyse a process of strategic thinking that will also lead to contributions to the strategic planning up to 2030.
- To co-create a better future for **ALL** our children in the Western Cape.

### **Call for contributions**

#### **There will be five main themes for the conference:**

<b>1. Future-focussed education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What does the future look like?</li><li>• What does this mean for what we do today?</li></ul>
<b>2. Critical on-the-ground challenges in the Western Cape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What are these?</li><li>• What can be done? Creative solutions about these?</li></ul>
<b>3. Whole-child development – part of the solution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>It takes a village to raise a child.</i></li><li>• Enrichment (inside and outside the classroom)</li></ul>
<b>4. Professional development for all the adults</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>The best thing we can do for the children is to support the adults.</i></li><li>• How best to support principals, departmental heads, teachers, parents, etc.</li></ul>
<b>5. Data-informed decision making</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How can we use data to inform our decisions?</li></ul>

***If you feel you have a contribution to make to any of the above topics, please let us know!***

## Break-out sessions

**We are specifically looking for people who are willing to present their work in a break-out session (in an informal conversation with 30–40 other interested people).**

- Plenary speakers will be invited to be “stimulators” where they will engage in conversations (which will then be taken to break-out sessions).
- These sessions will be facilitated by a member of the facilitation team.
- Presenters: cross-sectoral teams (WCED employees with people they are partnering with)
  - Case studies and stories from the field (i.e. from schools).
  - We need presenters to tell their stories “warts and all” – the magic, the good, the bad and the ugly – with the view of outlining innovative solutions to meet these challenges.
  - The ideal is to include learners and teachers in the session (if not as presenters then as participants from the audience).
  - We specifically want to hear from principals and teachers from under-resourced schools.
- Generic format (applicable to most sessions):
  - Welcome and facilitated speed-dating opportunity (to meet three new people you have not met before);
  - Introduce the speaker/presenting team;
  - **Speaker and presenting team to present (maximum 20 minutes)** – interactive session;
  - Facilitator and small-group sessions with the question:
    - *What struck me about what I heard?*
  - Facilitator to facilitate a large-group conversation with questions from the floor and presenting team (or others) to respond.

## Specific opportunities for contribution

### 1. Examples of work being done in/around schools across the province to prepare learners for the future

Name of project/initiative	
Name of school/organisation	
Is this an under-resourced school?	
Name of person who will be doing the presentation?	
Partner organisation?	
Name of person from partner organisation who will be co-presenting	

Name of circuit manager who knows about your work	
District	
Circuit	
A 150-word summary: Aim, progress/ challenges; recommendations to conference	

### 2. Examples of work being done in/around schools across the province to deal with challenges in/around schools

Name of project/initiative	
Name of school/organisation	
Is this an under-resourced school?	
Name of employee who will be doing the presentation?	
Partner organisation?	
Name of person from partner organisation who will be co-presenting	

Name of circuit manager who knows about your work	
District	
Circuit	
A 150-word summary: aim, progress/ challenges; recommendations to conference	

Please complete the relevant yellow blocks above and forward the form to:  
Mandelegrange@gmail.com; cc Gavin.DeBruyn@westerncape.gov.za;  
Naziema.Samuels@westerncape.gov.za

**3. Examples of work being done in/around schools across the province to prepare children for the future through afterschool/extracurricular activities**

Name of project/initiative	
Name of school/organisation	
Is this an under-resourced school?	
Name of employee who will be doing the presentation?	
Partner organisation?	
Name of person from partner organisation who will be co-presenting	

Name of circuit manager who knows about your work	
District	
Circuit	
A 150-word summary: aim, progress/challenges; recommendations to conference	

**4. Examples of work being done in/around schools across the province to provide support to the adults (principals, head of departments, teachers, parents and governing bodies)**

Name of project/initiative	
Name of school/organisation	
Is this an under-resourced school?	
Name of employee who will be doing the presentation?	
Partner organisation?	
Name of person from partner organisation who will be co-presenting	

Name of circuit manager who knows about your work	
District	
Circuit	
A 150-word summary: aim, progress/challenges; recommendations to conference	

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5. **Examples of data being used to inform the work of head of departments and teachers**

Name of project/initiative	
Name of school	
Is this an under-resourced school?	
Name of employee who will be doing the presentation?	
Partner organisation?	
Name of person from partner organisation who will be co-presenting	

Name of circuit manager who knows about your work	
District	
Circuit	
A 150-word summary: aim, progress/ challenges; recommendations to conference	

**Poster presentations**

**We are looking for teachers/social change activists to bring posters to showcase the work that they are doing in schools.**

Name of project/initiative	
Name of school/organisation	
Is this an under-resourced school?	
Name of employee who will contribute to the poster	
Partner organisation?	
Name of person from partner organisation who will contribute to the poster	

Name of circuit manager who knows about your work	
District	
Circuit	
A 100-word summary	

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Your name	
School/organisation	
Email address	
Contact telephone number (ideally mobile number)	

**Art/Music/Drama**

**We are looking for teachers/social change activists to bring posters to showcase work that they are doing in schools.**

Name of project/initiative	
Name of school/institution	
Is this an under-resourced school?	
Name of employee who will contribute to the poster	
Partner organisation?	

Name of circuit manager who knows about your work	
District	
Circuit	
A 150-word summary: aim, progress/ challenges; recommendations to conference	

**EXHIBITIONS**

**We are looking for teachers/social change activists to bring posters to showcase work that they are doing in schools.**

Name of project/initiative	
Name of school/institution/organisation	
Item description: 100 words	

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