

For St. Anthony trainees increasing one's knowledge and developing new skills is only the first step towards improving their lives. After clearing these hurdles their next challenge is to gain workplace experience and, ultimately, secure long-term employment.

The Job Placement Centre at St. Anthony's works diligently throughout the year with trainees, teachers and staff, employers, and public and private agencies to create a conducive environment for trainees to transition from the world of learning to the world of work. Although this mission can be challenging, it is also very rewarding.

The Job Centre was created in 2007 and began by establishing and nurturing positive relationships with potential employers. This process continued and expanded during 2015 and resulted in the placement of trainees with many businesses. Sometimes the process is straightforward and efficient; other times it can be lengthy, requiring great patience and perseverance.

The Centre is very pleased to report that of the 487 St. Anthony trainees enrolled in skills development programmes, 167 of them (29%) were provided an opportunity to obtain workplace experience in their field of study.

This year new relationships were established with the following three major organisations:

Automotive and Industrial Development Centre
(AIDC)

Greater Boksburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GBCCI); and the
Macsteel Usizo Programme.

Some Success Stories

Honingcraft Group of Companies

In 2015, five trainees were placed with businesses linked to the Honingcraft Group of Companies and the managers of these companies reported they were extremely happy with all of them. The experiences of these trainees are described below:

n Three bookkeeping trainees were placed with

Honingcraft.

Nickayla Williams worked in finance and performed duties such as invoicing, delivery notes, capturing of statements onto Pastel, and creditors. During her work placement experience the possibility arose for Nickayla to continue her studies and the company worked with her to determine how best to exploit this opportunity.

Palesa Modulane worked in dispatch at Kappa Engineering and focused on dispatching, invoicing, and processing material certificates and inspection reports. Palesa later transferred to Honingcraft.

Shade Freeks worked as a receptionist at Honingcraft and later transferred to Kappa Engineering.

One welding trainee, **Mark Williams**, was placed with Kappa Engineering.

One pre-apprenticeship diesel mechanic trainee, **Anele Dube**, was placed with Honingcraft. Anele started as an electrical and mechanical maintenance assistant and was later transferred to Moser Industries where he was trained as a plater. He was subsequently offered an opportunity to study further in the field of chemical engineering and accepted the offer.

CGR

Kelebogile Setungwane completed an internship at CGR in January 2015, was immediately hired on a 3-month probationary basis in February and then employed permanently in April. She was extremely happy with her experience and grateful for the opportunities given her.

Lindilane Ratibvumo was hired on a probationary basis by CGR in February 2015 and appointed permanently in May.

Bjorn Du Pont was hired on a probationary basis by CGR in June 2015 and appointed permanently in September.

Zimalco

In 2015, five St. Anthony trainees (four welders and one diesel mechanic) completed their work placement experience with Zimalco.

Emperors Palace

Eight St. Anthony trainees (3 plumbers, 2 carpenters and 3 furniture polishers) were offered work placement opportunities with Emperors Palace, with seven of them accepting 12-month apprenticeship contracts. Over the course of the apprenticeship four trainees completed their contracts, two resigned, and one, tragically, passed away. Of the four who completed their contract, **Ashwin Hansen** (plumbing), **Natanual Ruiters** (furniturepolishing) and **Innocent Bethwayo** (carpentry) accepted permanent positions with Emperors Palace.

Emperors Palace was very happy with the trainees and reported that they performed exceptionally well in all aspects of their apprenticeship, including their willingness to learn, their punctuality and their capacity to do their assigned work.

TVET Colleges

The Centre also engages with Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Colleges in and around Gauteng to open doors for trainees to transition to programmes where they can complete their theoretical training. In 2015 several St. Anthony trainees successfully completed their N1 and N2 courses in Motor Trade and Diesel Trade Theory which, combined with the practical knowledge gained at St. Anthony's, improves their chances for being accepted into Learnership and Apprenticeship programmes offered by companies.