

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



DA VINCI INSTITUTE STUDENTS FROM OMNIA RECOGNISED AT AWARD CEREMONY FOR THEIR REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

On Friday 25 January 2019, The Da Vinci Institute (a private higher education school of business leadership www.davinci.ac.za) celebrated with its students from Omnia Fertilizer, based in Sasolburg, on completing the Da Vinci status certificate with electives in essential process leadership practices. The award ceremony was held at the Quest conference centre in Vanderbijlpark. The Da Vinci Institute's strategic intent is to strengthen the growth of agile, aligned and engaged leaders, who co-create innovative ecosystems and sustainable transformational societies. These awardees have certainly demonstrated this brand of leadership and were encouraged on the day by the CEO of Omnia Mr. Jacques Villiers to "go out with what we have learned and make a difference in the world." And they were reminded by the CEO of the Da Vinci Institute Professor Bennie Anderson to "go out and ensure their voices are heard as they continue to co-create and influence sustainable societies in a meaningful way."

Omnia Group (Pty) Ltd that operates within the agriculture, mining and chemicals industry takes the development of its people seriously, developing an integrated leadership development initiative called Omnilead, which cuts across the organisation's management levels from the executive down to supervisors and foremen. The principle is to ensure the systematic behavioural alignment of leaders, managers, and staff across all divisions to the overall culture and strategic intent of the group. As an initiative that cuts across each level of management, it aims to cascade mission-critical competencies to all levels and ensure the use of a common language in all operating environments.

Enter the Omnibeat development initiative, in which core supervisory skills are developed at a process-leadership level. In 2016, the Da Vinci Institute included the 'Essential Process Leadership Practices (EPLP) elective stream, as part of its Higher Certificate qualification that would be a driving force of the Omnibeat initiative.

Participants included supervisors from all areas of the Sasolburg plant, with the first cohort comprising over 120 learners and a second cohort began in 2018 consisting of participants from across the Omnia Fertilizer business.

As a Da Vinci programme, a focus on situated learning and practical application are emphasised, as all modules include some form of work-based challenge to ensure new skills are applied. Venessa Vorbeck training co-ordinator at Omnia explains that "there is clear evidence of participants demonstrating the knowledge and skills they have acquired through their engagement with the programme."

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY DA VINCI



The Da Vinci Institute, is a School of Business Leadership, offering various accredited programmes (including learnerships) from Higher Certificate to Doctoral level. The Institute is focused on enabling its students to acquire their qualification not only through a strong knowledge base but also to apply the critical constructs of situated learning, problem probing, and decision making. This is done by integrating a unique business leadership framework called TIPST™. Through its agility, the framework enables The Institute to meet its client's and students ever-changing organisational performance needs. In this way, our academic practice is not only underpinned by relevant theoretical constructs but is informed by practice, which has been tested against a business innovation awards programme that we have run since 1994 - tt100 (<http://www.tt100.co.za/>). It is in this context that the Da Vinci Institute provides a learning journey for business leaders and innovative entrepreneurs.

The Da Vinci Institute was founded at the behest of Mr. Nelson Mandela and Dr Ben Ngubane. To this end, The Institute was conceptualised in 2004 with the vision of impacting and contributing to sustainable societies via a unique management and business leadership approach and conceptual framework (TIPST™). Our vision was to educate future leaders who would emulate the two remarkable leaders who inspire the Da Vinci Institute: Nelson Mandela and Leonardo Da Vinci. The Institute's guiding principles are a co-creation of some of the broad principles often associated with the visionary leadership of Da Vinci and Mandela, reconceptualised to represent the lived principles of The Institute.

Together with its South African and international partners, The Institute offers a spectrum of learning solutions including aspects related to, amongst others, entrepreneurship, innovation management, systems thinking and business leadership.

The Institute which is situated in the serene and peaceful suburb of Modderfontein, offers Higher Certificate, Diploma, Bachelor, Masters, and Doctoral programmes in the Management of Technology, Innovation, People, Systems (TIPST™) and Business Management(B).

The Institute is registered as a Private Higher Education Institution under the Higher Education Act 1997, registration no. 2004/ HE07/003. The Institute's qualifications are accredited by the Council on Higher Education and recorded with the South African Qualifications Authority.