

"Sondela Learnerships 2010 Ceremony and Academy Number 1 Contender for Training Provider" – "ACCOLADES ALL ROUND"

Once again this Ceremony was conducted in a beautifully decorated hall which made everyone present feel very special. Amongst the executive guests attending were Onica and partner (Global African Skills Academy), the Learners' very proud HODs and of course Ian van Rensburg, who always provides a sparkle at our events.

Gerbie Swanepoel opened the festivities by welcoming Diederick to the floor, who in turn welcomed our other important guests including Marietjie Niebuhr, Neville and Rolien Haarhoff and of course all the hardworking Academy Staff.

Remembering the arrival of the Learners with a slight chuckle, Mr. van Rensburg reminded us how lost they looked when they started their Learnerships here. Before no time at all, they adapted well and are now part of something incredibly special. He said that today was just the beginning of their journey – a journey in which they will be required to call on all the new skills they acquired at Sondela. Mr. van Rensburg expressed that his aim with the new RCI project is to get everybody launched into a career. He firmly believes that Sondela has the best trained Staff with the brightest future when compared to similar institutions.

Onica then took centre-stage in her own fashionable style. She welcomed and thanked the HODs, senior and executive staff and of course the staff of the various hospitality departments that dealt with the Learnerships on a day-to-day basis, for their wholehearted dedication which resulted in such an overwhelming success. She mentioned that it is always a pleasure to come to Sondela where she is welcomed with such warmth and is made to feel treasured as a "tourist". She proclaimed that she feels that the best students come from Sondela and that Sondela is thus the number one contender in competing for future Learnerships. Onica concurred with what Sondela has believed for years, i.e. that the graduate with the best positive attitude is the one who goes the furthest in his/her career. Onica congratulated everyone involved and asked that AGSA and Sondela keep up their good relations.

The HODs of the various Learners then said a word or two about their Learners;

- Edward (Chef) said he worked with a great team and he enjoyed taking them under his wing and teaching them how to handle the guests
- Elsie (F&B) said that management learned just as much as the Learners making it possible to grow together to provide quality Customer Service.
- John (Accommodation Services) said that it had not been an easy year but thanks to the encouragement received from Management, they were able to pull through.
- Daleen (FOH) added that the Learners were thrown into the deep end. She mentioned that it was a very difficult balancing act to keep productivity high and still train Learners but that everything worked out for the best.
- Rolien mentioned that amongst all the haste, they still found the time sit down to talk and just listen to each other with respect.

The Learners thanked their HODs and said that they have grown very close. They sang and danced in appreciation.

The afternoon concluded with the handing out of Certificates and a photo session. A few delightful snacks and drinks were then served.



Please note that Sondela Academy's next Open-Day is on Saturday 27th February. Forthcoming Open Days will be announced. Proceedings start at 09:00 and bookings are necessary. Please contact Edith at 014 736 8850, or at academyops@sondela.com