



# NASCEE

National Association of Social Change Entities in Education

# LEADERSHIP FORUM IMPACT REPORT

DECEMBER  
2025





# NASCEE'S PURPOSE

## VISION

We see a future where all South Africans have access to quality education.

## MISSION

It is our mission to empower NPOs in education by improving their visibility, capacity, effectiveness, and commitment to collaboration in order to magnify their impact and influence.



# OVERVIEW OF IMPACT

The NASCEE Leadership Forums (LF) are an essential, high-impact platform strengthening the collective efficacy of the South African education non-profit sector. Its primary value lies in accelerating relational trust among leaders, a foundational asset that directly translates into measurable, system-level impact. This is evidenced by the fact that 92% of participants rate the Forums as high value, and 86% report improved leadership confidence and capability. Crucially, the Leadership Forum is the sector's top driver for strategic alignment, with 71% of leaders forming or exploring new collaborations, bypassing systemic fragmentation.

These trusted partnerships have delivered tangible results, including impacting over 9,500 learners and generating over 1,100 course completions through co-created projects, proving that investment in this Forum acts as a powerful crucible for leadership development and a launchpad for scalable, system-level action.

**86%**

LF members indicate improved confidence and capabilities



**92%**

LF members rate the Forums as high-value.



The NASCEE Leadership Forum gives me a sense of belonging - a space to breathe among people who understand the same pressures.

Alex Trinder-Smith, CEO Siyavula

# CASE STUDIES OF IMPACT



**GAUTENG PROVINCE**  
EDUCATION  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Organisation: Youth@Work (CEO: Erica Kempken). Collaborator: Thea Coetser, Tshwane North District Director.**

**Focus: Integrating youth employment and education outcomes**

South Africa's youth unemployment remains a major systemic challenge. Simultaneously, small businesses and institutions - critical engines for job creation - struggle to access affordable, skilled talent. Youth@Work's core value is bridging this exact gap by leveraging youth placements to drive growth for SMEs and institutions. The immediate obstacle was accessing and aligning with public sector districts to deploy educational technology strategically.

Erica Kempken is an active member of NASCEE and in the fifth Johannesburg Leadership Forum. Because of the open, trusting environment within the Leadership Forum, Erica has shared about changes in work load and commitments throughout the year. But her dedication to the Leadership Forum and the relationships built provided the foundation for collaboration with the District Director, Thea Coetser.

Through this relationship, Youth@Work transitioned its long-term strategy for district engagement into a tangible, co-designed initiative. The core of the collaboration was the roll-out of the learnerPROFILER system, an AI-informed digital tool. This system allows schools to:

1. Assess critical learner skill gaps (foundational literacy and numeracy).
2. Achieve necessary Screening Identification Assessment and Support (SIAS) compliance.
3. Connect learners to targeted resources to close these gaps.

The Tshwane North District facilitated the pilot, providing access to schools and drafting a formal Letter of Collaboration. This action was strategic, ensuring legitimacy, early adoption, and institutional buy-in from the start. This provided the power to early-test this intervention and improve on its learnings. As a direct result from the relationships built within the Leadership Forum, significant and observable impact has been made:

**9 500+**

learners impacted with direct improvement in foundational learning outcomes across 9 primary schools.

**45 BEEI**

youth trained and managed, creating immediate work pathways while leveraging existing government



**Organisation: Dr CL Smith Foundation (Founder: Malcolm Mooi). Collaborators: Youth@Work, Global Teachers' Institute. Focus: Transforming partnerships from transactional to relational and driving innovation**

The Dr CL Smith Foundation impacts the education sector at the intersection of technology, community, and storytelling, focusing on making learning accessible. Their challenge mirrors the sector's: overcoming fragmented systems where organisations operate in silos, leading to duplication of effort and limiting collective potential. For the Foundation, growth depended on forging robust, non-competitive partnerships.

The Foundation is led by Malcolm Mooi, a committed NASCEE member and active member of his Leadership Forum. Malcolm's commitment to the Leadership Forum allowed Malcolm to fundamentally shift the Foundation's approach to partnerships—moving from a transactional focus (what can we get?) to a relational one (what can we build together?). The Forum became a space where "ego, control, and a lack of trust" dissolved, and instead encouraged high-value collaborations. Malcolm shares of two major collaborations:

1. AI Skills Initiative (with Youth@Work): This project was a direct result of the relationships formed within the Leadership Forum. By combining efforts, the Foundation and Youth@Work dramatically expanded their reach, yielding 1,161 additional course completions by youth. This successful collaboration directly led to the innovative creation of Yubuntu.org in partnership with YD Collab, a new community of practice for youth development organisations, creating an evergreen asset for the education sector which has onboarded 134 people representing 55 youth development organisations.
2. Teacher Digital Literacy and Adoption (with Global Teachers' Institute): This project is focused on building a community of practice on Zibuza.net to support GTI teachers from the full pipeline of impact of teachers: from pre-service to retirement. 48 GTI teachers were trained, advancing digital literacy and ICT adoption programs, strengthening the pipeline for new, tech-enabled teachers.

**1 161**

AI Skills expansion course completions by youth achieved through collaboration.

**Yubuntu.org**

Launch of Yubuntu.org with 55 youth development organizations represented.

**Digital Literacy and ICT Adoption**

Onboarding of 48 GTI staff and students trained in digital literacy.



## LEADERSHIP FORUMS ARE ESSENTIAL

The NASCEE Leadership Forum is the essential space where leadership development and systemic relationships are forged. These case studies prove the Forums are far more than a talking shop; they are a high-value mechanism for driving demonstrable positive impact.

The Leadership Forum directly addresses the sector's biggest inhibitor: working in silos. By creating a safe, empathetic space, it accelerates relational trust-evidenced by the significant 71% collaboration rate. This trust allows leaders like Erica and Malcolm to move swiftly from initial conversation to co-funded, system-level action, such as the deployment of the learnerPROFILER to 9,500 learners and the creation of the Yubuntu.org community.

Ultimately, the Leadership Forum is NASCEE's most powerful tool for capacity building and scaling impact, positioning peer networks as the definitive cornerstone for South African education transformation.

If these spaces didn't exist, we'd slip back into silos - more isolation, less learning, and fewer opportunities to grow together. Because of my NASCEE Leadership Forum, I'm more willing to share connections, open doors, and celebrate shared success.



Taryn Rae, CEO TomorrowTrust



**8.28**

Likelihood to recommend Leadership Forum (scale from 0-10)

**71%**

Members reported formed or new collaborations

# CONTACT



## GET IN TOUCH

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