

NASCEE ROUND UP

10/07/2026

WELCOME TO THIS WEEK'S NASCEE ROUND UP

Welcome to this week's edition of the NASCEE Round Up, where we bring you the latest stories, insights, and opportunities from across South Africa's education ecosystem.

This week, we celebrate the power of collaboration through the NASCEE Leadership Forum Impact Report, highlighting how relationships built across our network are driving innovation and creating meaningful change. We also reflect on the latest Fundraising Professional Learning Community Masterclass, where Dr. Russell Ally challenged us to rethink philanthropy, power, and sustainable resource mobilisation.

We're also excited to announce the return of Tuesdays in the Trenches, our webinar series that creates space for honest conversations on the issues shaping education. The upcoming series will explore the critical role of parents and caregivers in supporting learning, while this edition also introduces the new Connect feature on NED Connect, making it easier than ever for organisations to discover one another, build partnerships, and collaborate for greater impact.

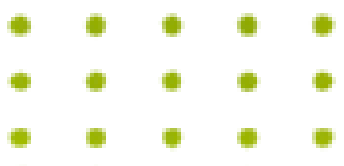
To everyone contributing to this work; our members, partners, funders, educators, practitioners, and supporters; thank you for the commitment you bring to strengthening education every day. Your willingness to share knowledge, build relationships, and work collectively is what makes this network so powerful. We hope this edition inspires new ideas, meaningful conversations, and opportunities to connect with others working towards the same goal.

As always, you'll also find upcoming NASCEE events, Professional Learning Community sessions, partner opportunities, and sector updates designed to support continuous learning and collaboration. Thank you for being part of the NASCEE community. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected education ecosystem that creates lasting opportunities for every learner in South Africa.

Community Notice Board

See on last page

BECOME A MEMBER



NASCEE Leadership Forum Impact Report

From Transactional to Transformational: How Collaboration is Driving Innovation

For many organisations in South Africa's education sector, one of the greatest barriers to impact is fragmentation. Too often, organisations work in isolation, unintentionally duplicating efforts instead of building on each other's strengths.

For the Dr CL Smith Foundation, led by NASCEE member Malcolm Mooi, this challenge became an opportunity through participation in the NASCEE Leadership Forum.

The Leadership Forum provided more than a networking space. It created an environment where trust, shared purpose, and meaningful relationships could flourish. As Malcolm explains, it shifted the Foundation's thinking from asking, "What can we get?" to "What can we build together?"

That mindset has already produced tangible results.

In collaboration with Youth@Work, the Foundation launched an AI Skills Initiative that significantly expanded opportunities for young people, resulting in 1,161 additional AI course completions. The partnership also led to the creation of Yubuntu.org, developed alongside YD Collab as a community of practice for youth development organisations. Since its launch, the platform has onboarded 134 individuals representing 55 organisations, creating a valuable, long term resource for collaboration across the sector.

The Foundation also partnered with the Global Teachers' Institute to strengthen teacher digital literacy through Zibuza.net. The initiative supports educators throughout their professional journey, from preservice training through to retirement, building a connected community of practice that encourages technology adoption in education. To date, 48 teachers have been trained, strengthening digital literacy and ICT integration in classrooms.

These collaborations demonstrate the power of relationships built through NASCEE. By creating spaces where organisations can move beyond competition and work towards shared solutions, the Leadership Forum continues to unlock innovation, strengthen partnerships, and increase collective impact across South Africa's education ecosystem.

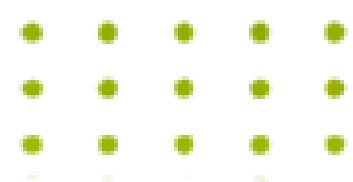
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If these spaces didn't exist, we'd slip back into silos - more isolation, less learning, and fewer opportunities to grow together. Because of my NASCEE Leadership Forum, I'm more willing to share connections, open doors, and celebrate shared success.

Taryn Rae,
CEO TomorrowTrust

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[Read the full NASCEE Leadership Forum Impact Report here.](#)



PHILANTHROPY, POWER AND THE CONTRADICTIONS OF DOING GOOD

FUNDRAISING PLC

What does meaningful philanthropy look like when viewed from both sides of the funding table?

This question anchored the latest NASCEE Fundraising Professional Learning Community Masterclass facilitated by Kristen Thompson, featuring Dr. Russell Ally, who brought a rare dual perspective shaped by his experience as both a grant-maker and a fundraiser. His reflections offered participants a deeper understanding of how power, relationships, and assumptions shape the funding landscape in practice.

A key theme throughout the session was the often-unspoken role of power in philanthropy. Dr. Ally challenged participants to interrogate how decisions are made, how legitimacy is constructed, and how organisations often struggle to access the networks and language that unlock funding—despite having strong, community-driven solutions.

He also emphasised the shift from fundraising to resource mobilisation, encouraging participants to broaden their understanding of what “resources” truly mean. Beyond financial support, organisations draw strength from governance structures, partnerships, institutional credibility, technical expertise, networks, and, critically, the trust embedded in the communities they serve.

The discussion further highlighted the tensions within the sector, including short-term funding cycles for long-term social challenges, increasing pressure to demonstrate measurable outcomes in complex environments, and the emotional and intellectual demands placed on fundraising professionals navigating constant uncertainty and rejection.

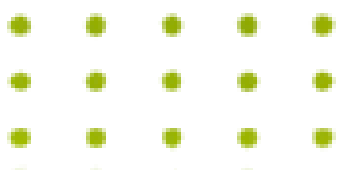
At the heart of the session was a powerful reminder: civil society exists not for organisational survival, but for community agency. Dr. Ally urged participants to remain grounded in the communities they serve, noting that sustainable impact requires organisations to continuously ask how they build capacity, reduce dependency, and strengthen local ownership.

He also offered practical guidance for those developing their fundraising practice, including the importance of strong governance, active and engaged boards, continuous peer learning, and adapting ideas thoughtfully to local contexts rather than importing models without reflection.

While philanthropy is often shaped by contradiction, complexity, and uneven power dynamics, the session concluded on a hopeful note. Dr. Ally reminded participants that meaningful change is still possible when relationships are grounded in mutual respect and shared purpose.

[Read the full article on our website for deeper insights and reflections from this thought-provoking masterclass.](#)





Tuesdays in the Trenches Returns

Exploring the Role of Parents and Caregivers in Education

NASCEE's Tuesdays in the Trenches (TTT) webinar series is returning with a new conversation focused on one of the most influential factors in a learner's educational journey: the role of parents and caregivers.

As a collaborative network of more than 200 organisations working to improve education outcomes across South Africa, NASCEE is committed to creating opportunities for shared learning, knowledge exchange, and meaningful dialogue. The TTT webinar series provides a trusted space where education leaders, practitioners, and partners can engage with real-world challenges, exchange practical insights, and strengthen collaboration across the sector.

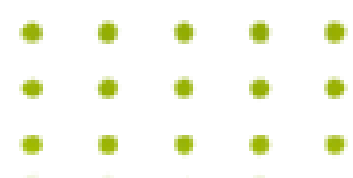
This upcoming series will explore Parental and Caregiver Involvement in Education, bringing together experienced leaders from organisations that work alongside families and communities to support children's learning and development. Through moderated conversations, participants will gain valuable perspectives on what it takes to effectively engage parents and caregivers, build strong community partnerships, and navigate the complexities of working across diverse educational contexts.

Discussions will reflect on leadership journeys, lessons learned from the field, and the collaborative approaches needed to improve learner outcomes. Participants will also have the opportunity to engage with speakers through an interactive question-and-answer session, encouraging the exchange of ideas and experiences from across the education ecosystem.

Whether you are an NGO leader, educator, funder, policymaker, or practitioner, the Tuesdays in the Trenches series offers an opportunity to learn from peers, strengthen connections across the sector, and contribute to conversations that support better educational outcomes for all learners.

Keep an eye on NASCEE's communication channels for speaker announcements and registration details coming soon.





INTRODUCING THE NEW "CONNECT" FEATURE ON NED CONNECT

NED Connect is living up to its name.

From the very beginning, our vision for NED Connect has been about more than simply creating a directory of organisations. It has been about strengthening collaboration across South Africa's education ecosystem by helping organisations find one another, understand each other's work, and build meaningful partnerships.

With the introduction of our new **Connect** feature, we've taken another step towards that vision.

Until now, users could browse organisation profiles, explore their work and identify potential partners. Now, they can also connect directly with organisations through NED Connect.

Every organisation profile now includes two simple options:

- **View** - Explore an organisation's profile, programmes and areas of work
- **Connect** - Send a connection request directly to the organisation through NED Connect

Whether you're a government official looking for implementation partners, a funder exploring investment opportunities, a researcher seeking collaborators, a civil society organisation interested in working together, or a corporate looking to support education initiatives, the new Connect feature makes it easier to start the conversation.

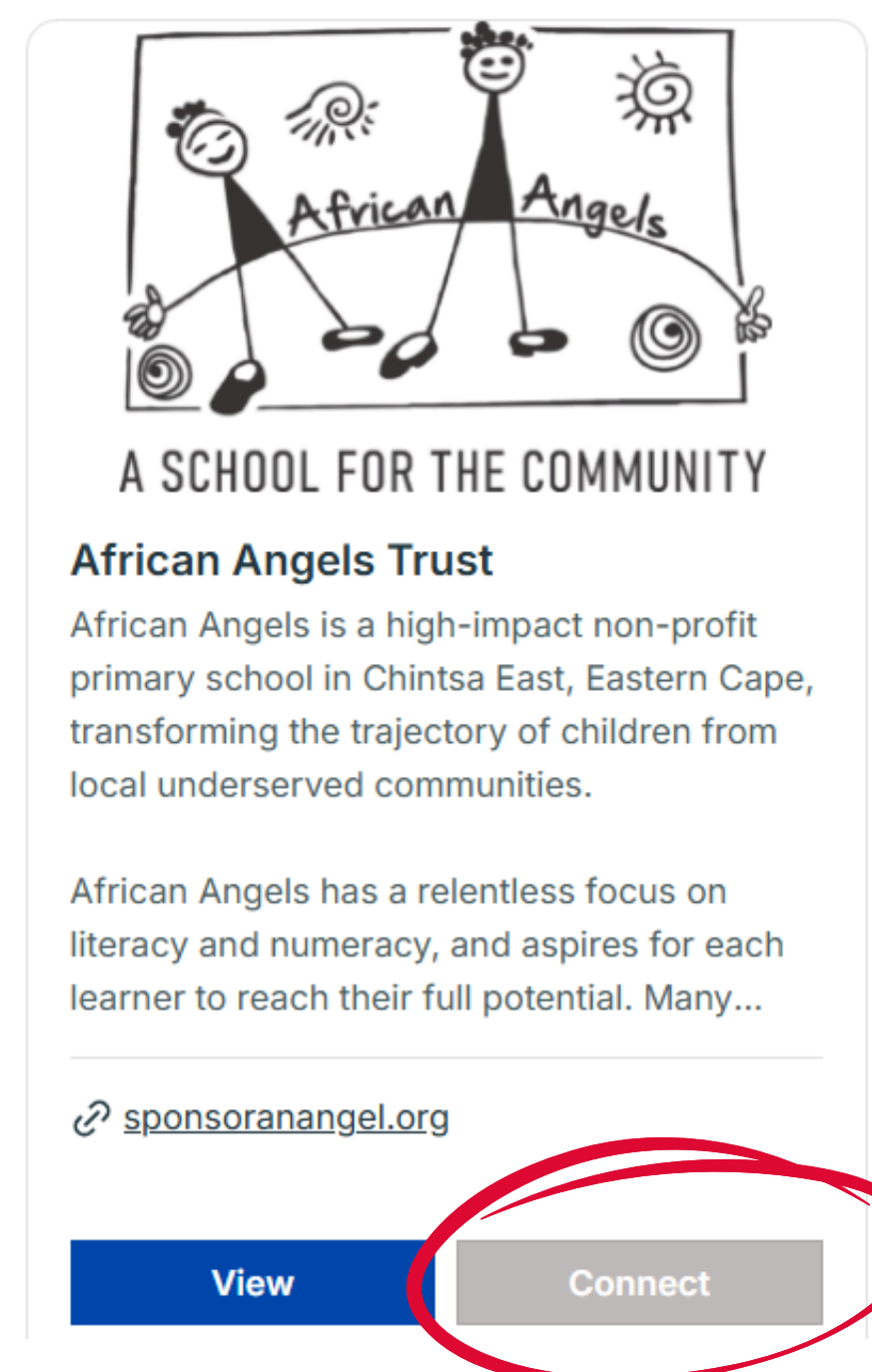
Simply click Connect, complete a short enquiry form, and your request will be shared with the organisation, allowing them to respond directly.

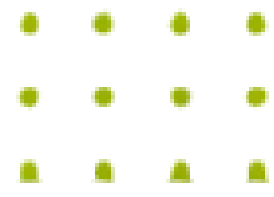
This enhancement moves NED Connect beyond being a platform to find and be found. It is becoming a platform where meaningful connections can be made, new partnerships can be formed, and collaboration can flourish.

As our community continues to grow, so too does our ability to connect the people and organisations working every day to improve education in South Africa.

Because stronger connections lead to stronger collaboration - and stronger collaboration leads to greater impact.

visit www.nedconnect.org to try this new feature





Community Notice Board

Upcoming NASCEE Events

Professional Learning Community Masterclasses and Coaching Sessions

(Open to NASCEE Members only)

Finance PLCs Walk-In Clinics 20 July 2026
HR Masterclass 3 22 July 2026

Regional Networking Events

Gauteng 25 August 2026
Kwazulu Natal 20 August 2026

Canva Webinar Series

(Open to NASCEE Members only)

Designing with African Colour 31 July 2026

Upcoming Partner Events

Coaching in Context

YeBo Academy in collaboration with NASCEE

Short Course 4-5 August 2026

[Click here to apply.](#)

Eastern Cape Education Partnerships Conference

Axium Education and Public School Partnerships in collaboration with NASCEE and the Eastern Cape Department of Education.

Advancing learning outcomes through stronger school, government, and civil society partnership 6-7 August 2026

Digital Inclusion Summit South Africa 2026

Sandton, Johannesburg 9 September 2026

[Click here to register](#)

Opportunities

CREST, Stellenbosch University and the Zenex Foundation

Evaluation in Education – Short Course

(Open to education stakeholders, NGO practitioners, CSI & foundation staff, programme managers, and evaluators)

[Click here to apply.](#)

July – September 2026

EduPulse Africa & The Instructional Leadership Institute

The Role of School Leaders

(Empowering School leaders to Lead Teaching, Strengthen Practice, and Improve Learner Outcomes)

[Click here for more information](#)

01 August 2026

The Instructional Leadership Institute – The Future Fund

A nationwide campaign inviting South Africans to contribute R10 per month to support the development of future school leaders. This initiative helps equip emerging leaders with instructional skills to improve teaching and learning across schools.

[Click here for more information](#)

researchED South Africa 2026

Exploring what makes great teaching & learning. Designed for teachers, school leaders, and those who work with them.

(NASCEE members: Keep an eye on your inbox for an exclusive member discount available for a limited time.)

Bishops College, Cape Town

12 September 2026

[Click here to buy your ticket.](#)

BECOME A MEMBER