

NASCEE ROUND UP

07/08/2026

WELCOME TO THIS WEEK'S NASCEE ROUND UP

Welcome to this edition of the NASCEE Round Up, your fortnightly source for the latest news, insights, events and opportunities from across South Africa's education ecosystem.

In this edition, we celebrate the power of collaboration and the impact that can be achieved when organisations work together. You'll discover inspiring stories from across the sector, opportunities to strengthen your organisation through professional development, updates on upcoming NASCEE events, and practical ways to connect with peers through the National Education Directory (NED Connect).

This edition also showcases how strategic partnerships are creating meaningful opportunities across the sector. From supporting organisations to become part of the NASCEE network, to equipping education professionals with practical AI skills, these initiatives demonstrate the value of investing in people, knowledge sharing and collective growth. Together, they strengthen the capacity of organisations to better serve learners, educators and communities.

As our network continues to grow, so too does our collective ability to improve education outcomes. Every partnership formed, every resource shared, and every conversation started contributes to a stronger, more connected education ecosystem. We encourage you to explore this edition, take advantage of the opportunities on offer, and continue working alongside fellow members to create meaningful and lasting impact.

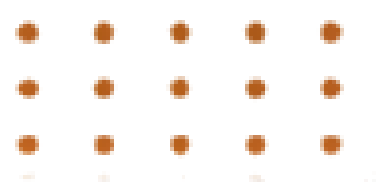
Thank you for being part of the NASCEE community. We hope this edition informs, inspires and sparks new opportunities for learning, collaboration and collective action.

Community Notice Board

See on last page

BECOME A MEMBER





NED Connect Organisation Spotlight: Discovering Cotlands

Imagine you're looking for an organisation that supports young children's learning and development.

Perhaps you're a district official looking for partners to support young children. Perhaps you're a funder searching for organisations with a proven track record. Or perhaps you're another NGO looking for a collaborator with complementary expertise.

You open **NED Connect**, NASCEE's platform for connecting South Africa's education ecosystem, and use the built-in filters to search for organisations working in Early Childhood Development.

Among the results is **Cotlands**.

With a single click, you begin to explore their profile. A few minutes later, you have a far richer understanding of the organisation than you would from a name on a list or a brief website description. And if you think there is an opportunity to work together, you don't need to search for contact details or navigate away - you simply click Connect to start the conversation.

You discover that Cotlands has been working alongside children, families and communities for nearly 90 years, with a mission to ensure that every child has access to quality early learning through play. You see that their work extends across eight provinces, supporting children, parents, caregivers and ECD practitioners through a range of programmes delivered in eleven South African languages.

But what makes this profile stand out isn't simply the information it contains - it's the story it tells.

Rather than describing their work in broad terms, Cotlands has used NED Connect to bring their organisation to life.

As you explore the profile, you move beyond the organisational overview into the projects themselves. You begin to understand how Cotlands' Early Childhood Care and Education Hubs operate, how Toy Libraries support children and caregivers, how practitioners are trained, and how different programmes are implemented in different provinces. You can see which projects are scaling, where they are being delivered, and the change they are working towards.

Just as importantly, you begin to understand how the organisation works.

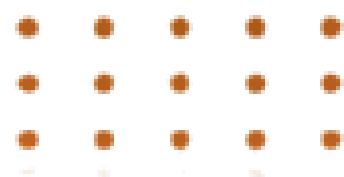
The profile shows the focus areas that define their expertise, the communities they serve, the partnerships they have built, and the credentials that demonstrate strong governance and accountability. Instead of asking prospective partners to search through multiple websites or request additional information, Cotlands has brought everything together in one place.

This is exactly what a great NED Connect profile should do.

A complete profile isn't just about visibility – it is about helping others understand your organisation quickly and confidently.

For government, it provides a clear picture of where organisations are already supporting districts and schools, making it easier to coordinate efforts, identify experienced partners and recognise areas where additional support may be needed. For funders, it provides an immediate picture of an organisation's work, partnerships and readiness before the first conversation even begins. For other organisations, it highlights opportunities to collaborate, share resources and build stronger networks. And when the time is right, the Connect feature makes it easy to turn discovery into meaningful engagement.





Cotlands has shown what is possible when an organisation invests time in telling its story well. Their profile is more than a directory listing - it is a showcase of their work, their partnerships and their impact.

As more organisations build rich, detailed profiles, NED Connect becomes more than a database. It becomes a shared picture of South Africa's education ecosystem, helping all of us make better-informed decisions, build stronger partnerships and work together more effectively to improve education outcomes.

Could someone understand your organisation this well? Take a few minutes to review your own NED Connect profile. Is it simply a listing, or does it tell the story of your organisation?

Continue exploring

[Watch the video: Discovering Cotlands on NED Connect Take a guided tour of the Cotlands profile and see how NED Connect helps organisations tell their story.](#)

[Click here to view the Cotlands profile on NED Connect](#)

Explore the profile yourself and discover how projects, partnerships, credentials and impact come together to create a rich picture of an organisation.





Partner Spotlight: Strengthening South Africa's After-School Sector Together

Investing in collaboration for greater impact

Through its partnership with NASCEE, **The Learning Trust** (TLT) is helping to strengthen South Africa's after-school sector by sponsoring NASCEE memberships for smaller organisations. By removing the financial barrier to membership, the partnership enables organisations to access professional networks, learning opportunities, sector events and communities of practice that support organisational growth and collaboration.

To date, **37 organisations have received TLT-sponsored NASCEE membership**. As part of the partnership, these organisations are encouraged to submit their information to **NED Connect**, helping to build a more comprehensive picture of South Africa's education ecosystem. So far, 21 sponsored organisations have joined the NED, increasing their visibility while making it easier for partners, funders and fellow organisations to discover their work and connect with them.

For TLT, the partnership is about strengthening not only individual organisations, but the after-school sector as a whole.

A shared vision for the sector

The Learning Trust shared the following on why this partnership with NASCEE is an important investment in the future of the after-school sector:

"At The Learning Trust, we know that building a stronger after-school sector isn't something any one organisation can do alone. While supporting individual organisations is important, lasting change comes when we strengthen the connections between organisations, create opportunities to learn from one another, and build a shared sense of purpose across the sector.

Ultimately, we want to see an after-school sector that is recognised for the vital role it plays in improving outcomes for children and young people across South Africa. We believe the sector needs a strong collective voice that can influence policy, attract investment and champion the value of quality after-school programmes.

We see NASCEE as an important partner in helping to realise that vision. The National Education Directory and the NASCEE network help organisations become more visible, connect with peers facing similar challenges, and access opportunities they may not have found on their own.

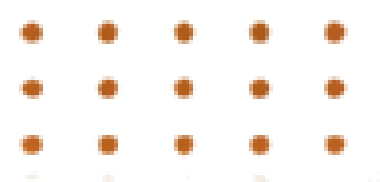
Just as importantly, they strengthen the sector's ability to learn collectively, advocate together, and build greater recognition for the impact of after-school programmes across South Africa."

Member Stories

Over the coming weeks, we'll be sharing stories from sponsored organisations about how NASCEE membership has helped them strengthen their work, build new partnerships and access opportunities through the NASCEE network and the National Education Directory.

Together, NASCEE and The Learning Trust are helping to create a stronger, more connected after-school sector in which organisations are better supported, more visible and better positioned to collaborate in improving outcomes for children and young people across South Africa.





Build Practical AI Skills with WeThinkCode

Artificial intelligence is transforming the way organisations work, collaborate and make decisions. Through an exciting partnership with **WeThinkCode**, NASCEE is offering members an **exclusive opportunity to participate in a fully funded AI for Professionals (Non-Technical) programme at no cost.**

Designed specifically for managers, coordinators and professionals without a technical background, this fully online, one-week programme provides practical, hands-on experience using leading AI tools to improve productivity, strengthen decision-making and drive innovation within organisations.

Programme at a Glance

- Cost: Fully funded for selected NASCEE members
- Format: Fully online, one-week programme
- Learning: 10 structured modules delivered through a Learning Management System (LMS)
- Support: Live facilitator-led sessions, one-on-one support, and opportunities for peer learning and networking
- Certification: Participants who achieve a minimum pass mark of 75% will receive a Certificate of Completion.
- Programme Period: August–December 2026

First Round Cohorts

- Cohort 1: 17–21 August 2026
- Cohort 2: 24–28 August 2026
- Cohort 3: 31 August–4 September 2026

To ensure that as many NASCEE members as possible can benefit from this opportunity, participants may enrol in one cohort only.

What You'll Gain

- Practical, hands-on experience using leading AI tools
- Live facilitator-led sessions with opportunities for real-time collaboration
- Personalised one-on-one support throughout the programme
- Peer learning and networking with professionals from across the sector

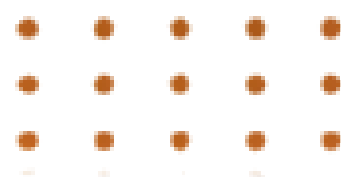
Register Now

This is a fully funded opportunity, so there is no cost for selected NASCEE members to participate.

Registration for the first round closes on Friday, **7 August 2026.**

We encourage all members to take advantage of this valuable opportunity to strengthen their AI capabilities, enhance their professional practice, and drive innovation within the education sector.





Supporting the Class of 2026: Strengthening Collaboration for Matric Success

As the 2026 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations draw closer, matric learners across South Africa are entering one of the most important stages of their education. While academic preparation is essential, learners also benefit from strong support systems that help them stay motivated, manage pressure, and access the resources they need to succeed.

Civil society organisations, schools, government, and education partners all have an important role to play in supporting learners through tutoring programmes, revision camps, teacher development, mentoring, psychosocial support, career guidance, and family engagement. By working together, we can help ensure that every learner has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

To strengthen this collaborative effort, NASCEE is hosting a special **Tuesdays in the Trenches** (TTT) webinar series focused on supporting matric learners across South Africa. The three-part series will provide a platform for organisations to showcase their work, exchange practical lessons, and explore opportunities for collective impact in the lead-up to the 2026 NSC examinations.

Webinar Series Schedule:

- **11 August 2026:** Curriculum Support and Exam-Focused Interventions
- **18 August 2026:** Learner Wellbeing, Psychosocial Support, and Exam Readiness
- **25 August 2026:** Teacher Professional Development and Support

Each session will feature presentations from organisations working in the education sector, moderated discussions, and opportunities for questions and knowledge sharing. The series aims to strengthen collaboration, highlight effective practices, and identify opportunities for organisations to work together in improving matric outcomes.

We encourage all NASCEE members and education partners to participate in the series and contribute to building a more connected ecosystem of support for matric learners.

Join the First Session

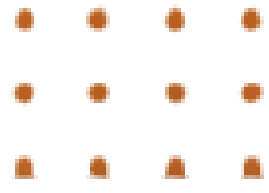
Topic: Curriculum Support and Exam-Focused Interventions

Date: Tuesday, 11 August 2026

Time: 12:00–13:30

Register today and be part of the conversation as we work together to help the Class of 2026 finish strong.





Community Notice Board

Upcoming NASCEE Events

Tuesdays in the Trenches Series

Strengthening Matric Support Through Collaboration

Episode 8	11 August 2026
Episode 9	18 August 2026
Episode 10	25 August 2026

Regional Networking Events

Kwazulu Natal	20 August 2026
Gauteng	25 August 2026

NASCEE's Salary Benchmarking Webinar

(Open to NASCEE Members only)

Webinar	13 August 2026
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Upcoming Partner Events

Digital Inclusion Summit South Africa 2026

Sandton, Johannesburg	9 September 2026
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[Click here to register](#)

WeThinkCode - AI for Professionals (Non-Technical)

Designed for non-technical professionals, this one-week online programme builds practical AI skills to boost productivity and innovation.

Cohort 1	17 – 21 August 2026
Cohort 2	24 – 28 August 2026
Cohort 3	31 Aug – 4 Sept 2026

[Click here to register](#)

Opportunities

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

We're Hiring: Community & Partnerships Coordinator

NASCEE is seeking a Community & Partnerships Coordinator to support the growth of NED Connect, South Africa's national platform for collaboration across the education ecosystem.

This hybrid, Johannesburg-based role is ideal for a proactive professional with experience in stakeholder engagement, partnerships and community building.

Applications close: 20 August 2026

[Click here to view the full Job Specification and application details](#)

BECOME A MEMBER

