



2014 South Africa-USA Educator Exchange Team Bios

Lebeko Emanuel Sekokotla – The Branson School



Emanuel Sekokotla, 26 years old, is a TEACH South Africa alumni and an Instructional leader at LEAP 5 School in Jane Furse. Emanuel joined LEAP schools as one of the pioneering teachers of the 5th LEAP school in the remote area of Jane Furse in Limpopo province in 2012, where he currently teaches English, History and Creative Arts. He is a graduate from University of Limpopo with a BA Communications degree and University of South Africa where he attained a Post Graduate Certificate in Education. He is an inspirational teacher who strives for meaningful transformation and change in the education system to empower learners with knowledge and skills to become future role models and agents of social transformation.

“One of the things that I managed to build on and which I view as my strength within the few years that I have been in teaching is the ability to create rapport and an ambience of safety and respect in my classroom. These abilities have become a solid cornerstone for effective teaching in my classrooms.”

Sibusiso Daniel Sebeko – The Branson School



I am a hardworking young man who is enthusiastic and passionate about community development and interested in promoting education to be a primary means to achieve, change, and transform destitute communities. Moreover, I understand the significant meaning of service to others. In and around my community (Greater- Alexandra Township located in Johannesburg), I have been involved and volunteered in various NGO's / community organizations that are focused on youth development platforms, youth in business and leadership development.

I am currently an undergraduate Bachelors of Education student at the University of South Africa (UNISA) and I also form part of the Student Teachers at LEAP3 Science and Maths school, which is located in Johannesburg-Alexandra-Linbro Park. In addition, at UNISA I have chosen English and Business Studies (Economics) as my majors and L.O (Basic Psychology) as a third subject respectively. I am from a family of six, third born, have three siblings. Even though I faced challenges I am fortunate to have grown up in a structured family that is rooted in the African cultural norms and practices of 'ubuntu' (humanity). Religiously, my background is of Christian faith.

Thumeka Veronica Mshuqwana – Drew School



My name is Thumeka Veronica Mshuqwana. I am 20 years old. I live in Alexandra Township. I have 3 siblings, 2 of them are my step siblings (my father's kids) and my younger brother is my mom's child. I was born in the Eastern Cape in East London and grew up in Port Elizabeth. I then moved to Johannesburg in year 2002 until now. I am doing my Bachelor of Education at University of South Africa. I am a Future Leader at LEAP 3. It's my first year at university and second year in the student teacher programme. I chose teaching because it was my first love and I want to give back to my community. I am willing to share my knowledge with the students by giving them a space to take full responsibility for their learning, being fully involved in engaging

students on a high level, and not allowing them to aim too low. My majors will be Mathematics and Accounting. I initially chose math because am good at it, but more importantly, I chose it to break the stereotype that math is difficult. As a student teacher I am also trying all possible ways to make math look simple and interesting to our learners. The latest stats have ranked South Africa's math and science as the second lowest in the world, which left me thinking, what impact or role am I playing to reduce that? I enjoy teaching because it gives me the platform to experience different individuals daily and it just takes me out of my comfort zone, meaning that am growing every day. I also help with tutorials at home and I just created a group on Facebook to help meet each student and make math fun.

I love singing and dancing though I cannot dance. I enjoy swimming and I love spending time with my family and friends. I am an outgoing person. Sometimes I enjoy me time and reading books. I love travelling. I am friendly and can easily interact with others.

Nkosingiphile Patricia Mpofu – The Hamlin School



My name is Nkosingiphile Patricia Mpofu. I am 20 years old. I live in Alexandra Township. I am a LEAP graduate. I graduated in 2011 and joined the future leaders programme in 2012. In 2013, I was selected to be the leader of the group. I am doing B.Ed. (Bachelor of education) at the University of South Africa (UNISA). I am majoring in Accounting and Life orientation. I chose teaching because I enjoy working with people and through education I can give back to my community and also reflect and relate with the students since I was once where they are. This helps me as a young teacher to grow professionally and emotionally.

I am the third child in my family; I have a younger brother who looks up to me. I lost my dad in 2012 and that really affected me as a young person but mostly it affected my little brother. Now the only person we have as a family is my mother. I enjoy being around people and in my spare time I love watching movies and reading novels.

Nomkhosi Snenhlanhla Khumalo – The Hamlin School



I am 21 years old. I come from Tongaat which is on the north coast of Durban and I live at Inanda. I come from a family of six. I matriculated at Inanda Seminary in 2010 and began my internship at the school, the following year. I am currently doing my third year at the University of South Africa and I will major in Geography and English. I want to be a teacher because it is an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young individuals every day and hopefully one day I will play a huge role in making the South African education system better. I believe education is the key to improving lives, gain knowledge and to be part of something great. It is an opportunity to promote and facilitate something important.

My hobbies are listening to music and reading. I love the beach. I would love to travel one day and experience different cultures and cuisines.

Ayanda Charity Mqadi – Katherine Delmar Burke School



I am 22 years old. I come from a small township called Illovo south coast of Durban. I have been living there for the past 16 years of my life. For grade 8 and grade 9 I went to Isipingo Secondary and then in grade 10 I was fortunate to be part of the Maths and English Program ran by ISASA. The subjects I did at school were Maths, Life Sciences, Geography and Business Studies. I am currently an educator intern teaching grade 8 english at Inanda Seminary and doing my 3rd at Unisa, studying towards a bachelor of education degree. I love being a teacher because it feels like the right thing to do and nothing would give me more satisfaction. I believe I have a good student- teacher relationship that makes it easy for the students

to see me as someone they can relate to. I have good classroom management skills thus allowing me to be innovative and creative.

I love animals especially dogs. My hobbies are singing and doing karate and writing poetry.

Edwin Nkgasi – Kehillah Jewish High School



My name is Edwin Nkgasi. I am currently teaching Maths grade 10 to 12 at Leap science and maths school. I have a degree in Education (Senior and FET phase), major in Maths and Life orientation. I am a graduate of Unisa and was sponsored by ISASA M&E programme as an intern teacher and was placed at a small independent school named Edendale to get training as an educator. I have great passion for teaching and it has been a calling for me not only to make a difference in learners' lives academically, but also emotionally. My aim is to continue my knowledge by studying further as a Maths and Computer science graduate so I can bring knowledge of technology and uplift learners'

interest in education.

I have great interest in cooking and sharing my ideas and giving to those in need as well as to help wherever I can. I have great passion for people and am willing to take a further step in motivating and assisting those in need.

Siyasanga Tshambu – Kehillah Jewish High School



My name is Siyasanga. I'm 20, but will be turning 21 in July. I'm about to finish my 1st year of studying but in my 3rd year in the student teacher program. I did a bridging course in my first two years. I want to be a teacher because of the potential people saw in me, although it took me a while to notice my passion in being in a classroom. It brings joy to me and I want to change the perceptive that people have towards the profession and encourage young people to become teachers.

I love going to church and spending time with my friends. I love to read but I hardly find time to these days. I'm trying to balance studying from a distance and managing everything. I used to debate at school but I know coach and head debate. I am the last born of 2 children but I live in a family house with cousins and my aunt. My granny lives in the Eastern Cape where I was born and my mother lives in her house but it's close by. It's small so that's why I don't live with her. I love smiling and listening to gospel music.