

# What difference did we make?

2019 Impact Metrics Summary  
From Uplands Outreach

Uplands Outreach works in **one school circuit** in Mpumalanga for maximum impact. We work collaboratively at the circuit level, and with school leaders, teachers and learners in an empirically-proven approach known as 'systemic alignment'.

Our vision is simply 'raising achievement for all.' This educational work is evidence-based, measurable, consultative, and takes place over the long-term. We could not undertake this work without the support of our [donors](#) – **thank you!**



01

## Circuit Level Impact

The Insikazi School Circuit climbed from **19th position (out of 68) in 2018 to 7th position in 2019**, an outstanding achievement!

As an indicator over time: in 2010, the Insikazi pass rate was 56.3% and the circuit was ranked 37/68. Performance is improving remarkably, thanks to years of **collaborative investment**.

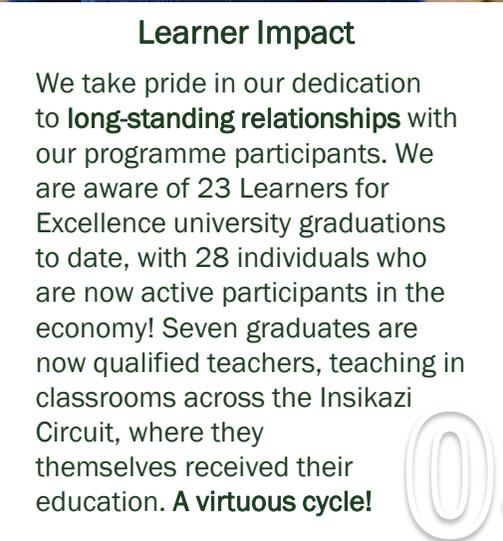


02

## School Leader Impact

Thanks to **over 30 promotions** (into school leadership positions) over the last two cohorts at Uplands Outreach, the Insikazi schools **performed above** the provincial and national averages.

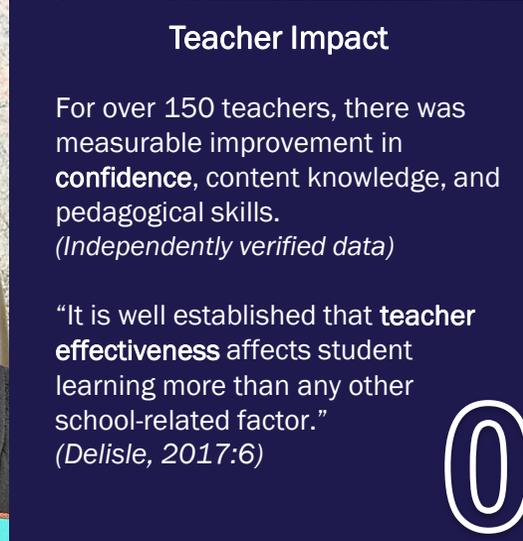
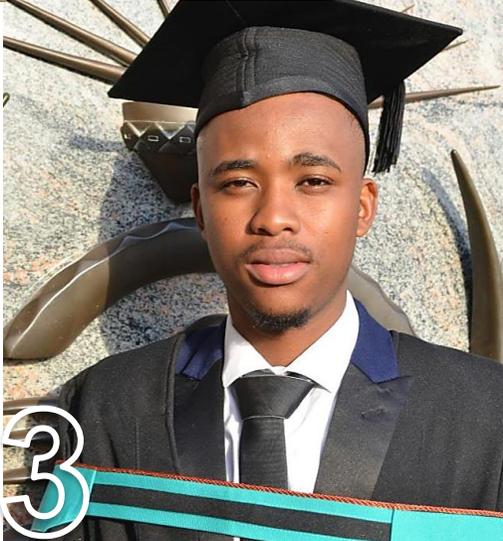
The Circuit Manager, Mr Mandrew Nyambi, calls these well-qualified leaders the **future of Insikazi**.



03

## Learner Impact

We take pride in our dedication to **long-standing relationships** with our programme participants. We are aware of 23 Learners for Excellence university graduations to date, with 28 individuals who are now active participants in the economy! Seven graduates are now qualified teachers, teaching in classrooms across the Insikazi Circuit, where they themselves received their education. **A virtuous cycle!**



04

## Teacher Impact

For over 150 teachers, there was measurable improvement in **confidence**, content knowledge, and pedagogical skills. *(Independently verified data)*

"It is well established that **teacher effectiveness** affects student learning more than any other school-related factor." *(Delisle, 2017:6)*

Raising achievement for all

## What difference did we make?

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### Circuit Level Impact

- The overall NSC matric pass rate of the ten secondary schools in Insikazi was 88.9%, up from 80.6% last year.
- This remarkable result beat the provincial average of 80.3% and the national average of 81.3%.
- All but one of the Insikazi secondary schools surpassed the national average, which is record-breaking for our partner schools.
- Insikazi climbed from 19th position (out of 68) in 2018 to 7th position in 2019, a remarkable achievement despite all the challenges. As an indicator over time, in 2010, the Insikazi pass rate was 56.3% and the circuit was ranked 37/68. Performance is improving remarkably thanks to years of collaborative investment.
- Insikazi saw 957 learners write matric in 2019 (ranking 12th out of 68 circuits in Mpumalanga, and demonstrating learner quantum stability). This is significant, as many schools face the issue of 'gate-keeping' in Grade 11 with poorer-performing learners.
- Insikazi's bachelor pass rate was 40.8% (beating the national average of 36.9%) – an excellent indicator of quality.
- Insikazi Circuit Office collaboration continues, as does mentorship to the three additional Circuit Managers (White River, White Hazy 1 and White Hazy 2). In 2019 we extended our hand of friendship to the Ehlanzeni District Office as well.

A real difference!

### School Leader Impact

- The School Leaders for Excellence programme consistently demonstrates its ability to nurture high-performing educators (with no previous leadership skills or training), equipping over 100 participants with leadership and management knowledge, on-site practical tips, general support and a valuable qualification.
- To date, in the last two cohorts alone, there have been over 30 promotions as a direct result of this school leadership programme at Uplands Outreach.
  - This programme identifies and develops high-performing school leaders, such as Mr Jeleni Siilinda, principal of Guduza Secondary, which attained a 100% matric pass rate this year and was ranked 11th out of 555 secondary schools in Mpumalanga.
  - Zikodze Secondary achieved a 98.1% pass rate (ranked 45/555 schools), demonstrating consistency over the past several years.
  - It is clearly visible how the current cohort has grown and matured from educators to school leaders. They now model professionalism. The Circuit Manager, Mr Mandrew Nyambi, calls this cohort the future of Insikazi leadership.



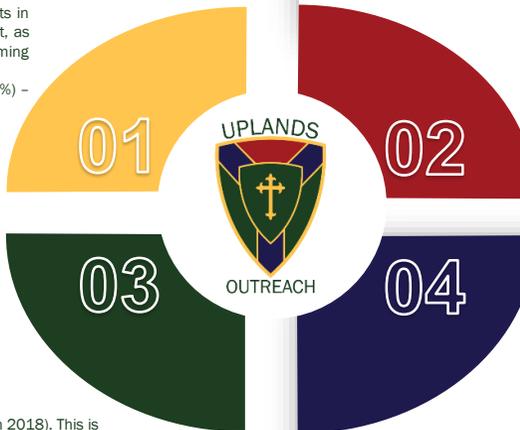
### Learner Impact

- Once again, Insikazi Circuit produced top-performing learners in Mpumalanga. Senzo Hopewell Mkhonto, of Khutsalani Secondary School, ranked in the Top 10, achieving seven distinctions, including 100% for Accounting and 96% for Maths. Khutsalani also boasted 74 bachelor passes in 2019 (112 wrote) – a 66% bachelor pass rate.
- Insikazi's secondary schools produced 25 Maths distinctions (up from 15 in 2018). This is significant in light of South Africa's declining Mathematics performance, as Maths is a key 'gateway' subject, critical for university entrance, economic growth and national development.
- We take pride in our dedication to long-standing relationships with our programme participants. We are aware of 23 L4E University graduates to date, with 28 individuals who are now active participants in the economy! Seven are now qualified teachers, teaching in classrooms across the Insikazi Circuit, where they themselves received their education. This is a remarkable and virtuous cycle!
- SMILE, the longest running of Uplands Outreach's community service programmes (21 years), continues to be a remarkable success: the summative test average of Maqamela's Grade 4 learners was 82%, up from the baseline average of 61%.



### Teacher Impact

- In Year 3 of the Standard Bank Primary School Teacher Development Programme, 54 teachers improved their Maths and Literacy teaching skills even further in this intensive professional development programme:
  - Teaching confidence reached an all-time high of 92% (off a base of 45.5%).
  - Intermediate Phase teachers achieved an average of 82% for Maths content knowledge (ahead of national [research](#) on Grade 6 teachers whereby only 32% have desirable knowledge levels).
  - Classroom effectiveness improved again (4.52 on a scale of 5) for partner teachers.
- In 2019, the programme boasted a 100% retention rate, a 94% attendance rate, reflection journal achievement average of 95%, and over 6,911+ professional development hours in total.
- 24 teachers (95.8% attendance rate) improved their Digital Literacy confidence over time from 32% to 82%.
- It's important to note that Maths results in South Africa are an ongoing concern. The 2019 NSC results in SA showed a decline in three ways: the number of learners writing Maths decreased, the pass rate decreased from 58% to 54%, and the number of distinctions decreased. In the ten partner Insikazi schools, the number of learners writing Maths also decreased, but the Maths pass rate improved to 60%, ahead of the national average, and the number of Maths distinctions improved, from 15 to 25 (credit to the Maths teachers).



1

School Circuit:  
Insikazi

8

Major  
Programmes

432

Direct  
Beneficiaries

23,982

Indirect  
Beneficiaries

1

Vision:  
Raising  
Achievement  
For All

"I was so impressed with the teachers' overall improvement in their own self-confidence level and enjoyment of teaching – totally in keeping with the Uplands' confidence-boosting aspirations." – **Independent Evaluator**

For more  
information about  
Uplands Outreach,  
please visit our  
[website](#).

Raising achievement for all