

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SchoolNet South Africa Wraps Up Successful Digital Learning Conference

SchoolNet South Africa recently concluded its highly anticipated Digital Learning Conference, which was held from March 25 to March 27, in eThekweni, KwaZulu-Natal. The conference was themed Digital Education for the Future and brought together more than 350 delegates to explore innovative digital practices and strategies in education.

Dr. Makgabo Reginah Mhaule, Deputy Minister of Basic Education, inaugurated the Digital Learning Conference by emphasising the critical role of basic education plays in establishing a robust foundation for a child's educational journey. Her department is committed to leveraging the digital revolution to equip educators and learners for the evolving educational terrain. Ms. Mbalenhle Cleopatra Frazer, MEC for Education in KwaZulu-Natal, expressed her gratitude to SchoolNet South Africa for organising this significant gathering and for the organisation's ongoing dedication to training and skills development for educators nationwide.

Key Highlights:

- The conference aimed to help educators integrate digital technologies into their teaching practices. Presentations covered a wide range of topics, which included among others Artificial Intelligence, cyber safety, coding and robotics. It also had a session to build educator confidence and knowledge for teaching and learning using technology.
- During his keynote speech on Catalysing Creative Learning Environments, Professor Mitchel Resnick from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology emphasised the importance of four key elements for fostering creative learning: projects, passion, peers, and play. By incorporating these elements into education, young people can develop as creative, curious, caring, and collaborative learners, thus allowing them to thrive in today's complex, fast-changing world. Resnick also shared creative examples of using digital tools such as Scratch and OctoStudio for learning purposes. On the second day of the event, Ms. Omashani Naidoo, Executive Director of SchoolNet South Africa, gave a keynote speech titled Ai, Ai, My Leader! In her speech, she explored how people view AI with both trepidation and excitement. She pointed out that Artificial Intelligence has been in use for some time and is already a part of our daily lives.

- Collaboration and Networking: Attendees had the opportunity to network with peers, share best practices, form professional learning communities and collaborate on innovative solutions to common challenges in education.

The conference reinforced SchoolNet South Africa's commitment to promote educational excellence. By sharing knowledge and providing professional development opportunities, SchoolNet South Africa empowers educators to lead 21st-century education.

For more information and highlights from the conference, please visit our website.

<https://www.schoolnet.org.za/>

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About SchoolNet South Africa

SchoolNet South Africa is an enabler of positive change in South Africa's education system and champions the use of digital tools in the classroom by both teachers and learners. SchoolNet has been organising conferences, every two years, on a rotational basis in different provinces for the past 26 years to provide cutting edge insights into the effective use of technologies for learning and teaching.
