What is this project about?

The Schools Improvement Initiative (SII) draws on the university's broader resources to assist the Western Cape Education Department in improving the quality of education in this Province. The SII's model of school improvement involves the development of strong partnerships between a few schools in Khayelitsha and numerous UCT departments.

The Co-op worked with the SII since 2015 and recruited students to help support basic computer literacy skills for learners and teachers at SII partner schools. Students of the Honours Outreach & Community Involvement Programme (HOCIP), based in UCT's Information Systems department, enthusiastically took on the project.

The process

The Knowledge Co-op arranged for the students to meet with Dr Patti Silbert of the SII, who in turn introduced them to the partner schools.

In 2015 a first group of four HOCIP students tutored learners at Matthew Goniwe High School on Saturday mornings; in 2016 another team taught basic computer literacy skills to matric learners at Usasazo Secondary school. As learners' PC skills were very basic, the student teams searched for suitable materials and designed an engaged programme that was fun and allowed learners to experience success – and rewards – as they learnt.

Each UCT student dedicated between 15 - 30 hours to the project.

To reference this Project Portrait, cite UCT Knowledge Co-op as the author.

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The Knowledge Co-op at the University of Cape Town

The UCT Knowledge Co-op aims to make it easier for community partners to access UCT's skills, resources and professional expertise. It helps initiate joint projects that benefit both the community partner and the university. The Co-op links community groups with appropriately qualified staff and students at UCT, and supports both partners throughout the project – from initial planning to final product.

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