

VICE CHANCELLOR'S DISTINGUISHED AWARD
FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2009

Dr Ken Ngcoza And Mrs Joyce Sewry

*Faculty of Education and the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science
Chemistry Teachers Programme*

Dr Kenneth Mlungisi Ngcoza

After being expelled from the University of Fort Hare due to student boycotts, Ken qualified as a mathematics and science teacher (Cum Laude) from the Cape Teachers' College in Fort Beaufort. After that he taught at Nombulelo Senior Secondary school for 9 years, during which period he completed his BSc degree at Rhodes University. He left teaching to co-ordinate the Science Education Project (SEP). In that period, he completed his B.Ed degree at Rhodes University. Thereafter, he became a Science Subject Advisor in the Grahamstown District and completed his Masters Degree in Science Education (Cum Laude) in 1998. As a Science Subject Advisor, he was involved with the Curriculum 2005 workshops and the Khula Project.

He also completed a PGDHE at Rhodes University. Ken was appointed as a Science Education lecturer at Rhodes University in 2001. He was conferred with a PhD degree in Science Education from Rhodes University in 2008.

Ken has been involved with many organisations, including the Southern African Association for Research in Mathematics, Science and Technology Education (SAARMSTE), Rhodes University Mathematics Project (RUMEP) and the Mobile Science Laboratory (MSL).

Ken is married to Nomvuyo and they have been blessed with one son, Nkosiphendule, which means God has answered, because before him they lost two children.

Mrs Joyce Dorothy Sewry

Joyce Sewry graduated with a B. Science degree from Rhodes University in 1983, received her HED from UNISA in 1989. In 2003 she obtained her Masters degree in Mathematical Statistics with a distinction. Between 1984 and 1987, Mrs Sewry worked for ISCOR. In March 1987, she joined Rhodes University as a research assistant in the Department of Chemistry. Since 1993, she has held a position of Academic Development Lecturer in the same department.

Among other things, Mrs Sewry is the coordinator of the Chemistry 1R course which gives poor performing first year students an opportunity to improve their performance in first year Chemistry. She also teaches an Honours Course in Chemometrics.

She is also involved with the Khanya Maths and Science Club for grades 7 – 12 learners. The aim of the Club is to engender a love for Maths and Science amongst interested learners. She is an active member of the Grahamstown community serving on several School Governing Bodies.

In 2008 after a delegation from Bristol, ChemLabs, visited Scifest Africa, an invitation was extended to Mrs Sewry who then took a team of chemistry students to the Bristol ChemLabs (The Centre for Excellence in teaching and Learning in Chemistry in the UK).

In a country where the education system fails to recognise the full potential of its young people because of, inter alia, poor quality of teaching and learning, it is fitting that Rhodes University should recognise noble efforts to improve the quality of teaching and learning of science and mathematics in our community.

In awarding the 2009 VC's Distinguished Community Engagement Award medal jointly to Dr Ngozoza and Mrs Sewry we also recognise and pay tribute to: the chemistry teachers who participated in the project; the district office of the Department of Education; the subject advisors, in particular Mr Goosen and Mr Maselwa; our post graduate students in the Department of Chemistry and Education; the head of Department of Chemistry, Professor Mike Davies-Coleman - all of whom have contributed to the success of this project.

