



## **THE KZN Science Centre announces appointment of CEO**



The KZN (Kwazulu-Natal) Science Centre is pleased to announce that Mrs Candice Potgieter, currently General Manager of The KZN Science Centre, will join the board of The KZN Science Centre as its Chief Executive Officer as of 1 September 2012.

Potgieter's expertise covers many components including scientific research, business development, marketing, communication, government relations and fundraising activities. She holds a postgraduate degree in Applied Physics and Applied Mathematics from the University of KwaZulu Natal as well as having been a part of The National Astrophysics and Space Science Programme at The University of Cape Town. Potgieter has also completed a multitude of business and science communication courses both locally and abroad.

The KZN Science Centre is one of the largest science centres in the country servicing the highest number of people from the most rural to the most urban communities in KwaZulu Natal. Using funded learning projects, curriculum based resources and interactive exhibitions both in-house and by going out to communities this non-profit organisation is able to achieve its mandate of inspiring and educating the youth in KwaZulu Natal.

"Candice Potgieter has made a significant contribution to The KZN Science Centre over her time ,as General Manager of the organisation, by redeveloping and reorganising the way in which the organisation conducts itself to ensure sustainability in a rapidly changing economic landscape", states Sunil Geness, Chairperson of The KZN Science Centre board. 'Her breadth of experience makes her an ideal candidate for ensuring that this non-profit organisation reaches its full potential in improving the quality of education in the province of KwaZulu Natal."

Potgieter cites several challenges and opportunities for the organization. "With diminishing corporate and state funding, we have to be more creative in our pursuit for funding and in how we provide services. The challenges are there, such as reduced funding combined with larger numbers of under resourced schools with more complex needs. However we have the



opportunity now to embrace new technologies, new funding sources and new service delivery methods” Potgieter notes for instance, that The KZN Science Centre will shortly be embarking on a Saturday Schools Intervention Programme as well as a series of fundraising and partnership initiatives with like-minded organisations.

Apart from this appointment, Potgieter will serve on the advisory committee to the MEC of Education in KZN for career support and guidance to schools in KZN.

*The KZN Science Centre, a Non Profit Organization (NPO #064-359-NPO), is situated at the Gateway Theatre of Shopping in Umhlanga, and offers a great variety of educational and event facilities following an extensive revamp in October 2009. Through a variety of exhibits, workshops, themed holiday programmes, events, presentations and conferences, both in house and by going out to communities the KZN ScienCentre aims to promote science awareness amongst all citizens and in particular the youth, in order to encourage them to pursue science and technology related professions. For further enquiries, the KZN Science Centre can be contacted on 031-5668040 or you can visit the website at [www.kznsc.org](http://www.kznsc.org).*

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