

JOB SHADOW DAY INSPIRES LEARNERS



**BIGEN
AFRICA**

Bigen Africa's Job Shadow Day

Bigen Africa's recent Job Shadow Day programme inspired and motivated a group of high school learners to such an extent that some of them even changed their career plans! The aim of this initiative was to educate about 20 pupils of The Glen High School, Willow Bridge High School and Pretoria High School for Girls about the Engineering profession and the important role Bigen Africa plays in improving the quality of life of all by developing sustainable infrastructure in South Africa and the continent at large.

The day was packed with a lot of activities. Upon arrival, the learners were served breakfast. Loyiso Ndlovu, Bigen Africa's Human Capital and Marketing Director, welcomed the students, after which young engineers of Bigen Africa gave presentations on each of their particular fields of specialisation, such as Structural, Land Development, Roads and Transport Engineering. The students were also given background information on the types of projects that each of these young engineers had been involved in, in the past, and what each project entailed. This gave them a clear insight into the kinds of jobs one would come across in the engineering consulting industry.

After the presentation, the learners were taken out to experience the more practical side of the engineers' job at the Diepsloot site. They were able to see, first hand, what a construction site looks like and learn about the engineering process from design stage, how the information gets to the contractor on site, how the information is reviewed and about the building of the design.

The learners were given information about the roles and responsibilities of designers, the engineer on site and the contractor. They were able to see sewer, water and storm water pipes and discover what the purpose of manholes and junction boxes are.

The outing included a demonstration of a Troxler test with an explanation of what it measures, as well as the road-building process including box cut, different pavement payers, compaction and testing. At the end of all this, the learners started thinking about municipal services differently and appreciating the work of engineers and contractors.

Bigen Africa's Job Shadow Day, especially the site visit, gave these learners an invaluable insight into the engineering profession, which proved most useful in helping them with their career choices.