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## Repositioning the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of the Western Cape for Learners Programme

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The Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) has been involved in collaborating with stakeholders in the engagement of High school learners for better achievement at various stages of basic education. This is done to enhance and improve learners' retention in the education system, access to next-level movement within the system, success at standard examinations, and throughput for the general health of the education system and its beneficiary systems. The Department of Physics and Astronomy in collaboration with the Metro South Education District has taken this quest further by engaging with High Schools in the Cape Flats to design intervention at the community level with high schools to ensure significant growth and improvement in learners' achievement, learners' interest and learners' participation in Mathematics and Physical sciences. Within the scope of the department's outreach is the focus on the need to produce students who can follow careers in the Sciences, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) stream and to develop individuals to attain their full potential in life. The programmes undertaken by the Department of Physics and Astronomy improved the pass rate for grades 8 and 9 mathematics for 2018 was over 10%, grade 11 for 2019, and grade 12 for 2022 were inconclusive due to data protection issues respectively. The plan for the 2023 engagement is on the verge of being concluded and will form part of the presentation. The study will present the goal of the intervention, identify factors that encourage learners' retention in such programmes, challenges, and successes.

Keywords: Physical Science, Mathematics, Intervention, Retention.

### Apply to be considered for a student ; award (Yes / No)?

Yes

### Level for award;(Hons, MSc, PhD, N/A)?

PhD

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