

STEC@UKZN TAKES THE THIRD SHARE AND DARE TALK TO THE SCHOOL



Professor Anne F Grobler with Wiggins High School learners.

Everything was set for the third NSTF share-and-dare talk at the Science and Technology Education Centre (STEC@UKZN). About 70 learners were expected to attend a talk given by Prof. Anne F. Grobler the Director of the DST/NWU Preclinical Drug Development Platform at the North-West University.

Unfortunately on that day the taxi drivers decided to go on strike, which meant that the learners did not have transport to the Science Centre. The co-organiser of this event, Ms Christina Stamper from the Umkhumbane Schools project, came up with the perfect solution to the problem. If the learners can't come to the Science Centre why not take Grobler to the school?

The upshot was that Grobler presented her talk to over 40 excited Wiggins High School learners at the Umkhumbane library in Cato Manor. The captive audience obtained a better understanding of what goes into a medicine and about the drug development chain. In her talk Grobler also highlighted the immense career opportunities in the pharmaceutical industry.

The NSTF share-and-dare programme was initiated as part of the NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards to enable the award winners to be ambassadors for Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation (SETI), as well as role models for the youth, during the year they receive their awards. Grobler won her award for her outstanding contribution to SET through management and related activities over the last 5 to 10 years.