

CONCRETE CAREERS VACATION INTERNSHIPS INSPIRATIONAL FOR STUDENTS



Above & Left
Kayleen Pillay, during her vacation
Internship at the Contest
Laboratory in Durban with Donovan
Leach of Contest.



Above & Left
Siyabonga Maduna getting hands-
on experience with Kerusha Ayer of
Naidu Consulting.

The two University of KZN students, who benefited from Cement & Concrete SA's KZN branch's "Careers in Concrete" initiative, say the practical work opportunities CCSA created at concrete-related enterprises in Durban have stimulated their interest in their future careers even further.

The two final-year BSc Civil Engineering students, Kayleen Pillay and Siyabonga Maduna spent part of their recent mid-year vacation gaining hands-on experience at CCSA member companies, Contest, and Naidu Consulting. Contest is a leading KZN service provider in concrete testing and technology and Naidu Consulting, a respected national consulting engineering firm.

Commenting after the completion of her Contest internship, Kayleen said: "Working at Contest provided me with diverse views of the world of concrete. I experienced casting and testing of a variety of concrete mixes and visited construction sites to experience the challenges and solutions associated with different types of infrastructure.

"My work using a variety of high technology instruments, such as ground-penetrating radar (GPR) sensors, opened my mind to a range of new possibilities. In addition, this internship has been a great practical way to support the textbook methods taught at university," she said.

Siyabonga is equally grateful for the time spent at Naidu Consulting. He reflected: "I worked in the Structural Division of the company, focusing on bridges and buildings – an environment full of professionals who practically experience the civil engineering theory I am taught at university. This has inspired me to strive for excellence once in my career." He was involved in tender adjudication and site inspections of different bridge projects while at Naidu Consulting.

"Tender adjudication assesses the competency of tenderers and is a fundamental and crucial part of the construction. The site visits helped me understand the construction of bridges and will positively impact my final study year's project about bridge design," Siyabonga added.

Kevin Volmink, the chairperson of the CCSA KZN branch, said the branch was planning to arrange similar vacation internships for final year civil engineering students at the University of KZN in the future. In addition, a Student Chapter of CCSA has been established at the university to organize concrete events for BSc Civil Engineering students and stimulate interest in concrete-related careers.

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