

# Meet the innovators behind the innovations



## Ann-Connect

Bonginkosi Mabaso, a Unisa BA Honours graduate, currently furthering his studies in financial management, is the founder of Ann-Connect. His start-up strives to build technologies that challenge network issues in remote communities.

Students can access exams and video interviews even when an internet connection is lost.



## Power Cycle

Nkamogeleng Matloga is a Postgraduate Diploma student in Business Administration at Unisa and the inventor of Power Cycle. This early-stage start-up is developing an innovative recycled plastic bicycle that charges a battery to power bike gadgets, a phone or laptop.



## uMbala-bala

Mbuso Ngcongco, a Unisa Bachelor of Science in Computing student, has invented uMbala-bala, an integrated, explorative learning method and apparatus. Inequality, the digital divide, poverty, crime, corruption and COVID-19 significantly affect the outcomes of public education. This early-stage start-up brings innovative, affordable uMbala-bala educational toolkits to foundation phase classrooms.

## How Unisa contributes to the Blue Ocean Awards

"Unisa, as a founding key partner of BlueCity and the Blue Ocean Awards in South Africa, has made possible the first BlueCity on the African continent, says Alban Eral," founder of the Blue Ocean Awards.

He says it is thanks to Unisa that the six South African entrepreneurs could pitch their projects at the international closing ceremony of the 2023 Blue Ocean Awards.

Unisa also extended this opportunity by organising three days of meetings with incubators, investors, corporations and business schools in Paris to highlight the Blue Ocean projects of the entrepreneurs and initiate new partnerships.

The operational principles of the BlueCity programme are to foster international collaboration and open innovation and inclusion for local and national development.

## Where to from here?

Blue Ocean Corners provides multiple opportunities for participants not only to compete but to learn from their peers about existing possibilities in the world of technology, entrepreneurship and business development.

The Unisa finalists of the Blue Ocean awards finalists are currently developing their technologies and piloting their solutions with different stakeholders. In this, they have the support of the DITTC and its Start-Up Academy

Furthermore, they are engaging with more funders for possible commercialisation of their solutions.

Through the leadership of Ayanda Noma, Director: DITTC, and Basanda Pongoma, Business Development Specialist: DITTC, Unisa is planning for the second South African edition of the Blue Ocean Corners with other stakeholders in the region.

This will see new start-ups from Unisa being trained in Blue Ocean Strategy with the objective to participate in the Blue Ocean awards in 2024 to transform Africa into an economic juggernaut.