

Winner of SWHAP Achievement Award 2011 - Category for Peer Educator Achievement (South Africa)

SWHAP Peer Educator Achievement Award 2011, South Africa

The SWHAP instituted a Peer Educator Achievement Award in 2010. The award stemmed from the need to recognize not only workplace programmes, as has been done through the SWHAP Achievement Awards in 2008 and 2009, but also the individual efforts of peer educators. The latter often play an integral role in promoting behaviour change as well as in implementing the workplace programme as a whole. If given appropriate support and recognition a peer educator is a low-cost way of reaching a high and sustainable impact of a programme.

The workplaces were asked to have their peer educators nominate candidates, who would in turn submit a motivation form. The three shortlisted candidates were requested to submit additional supporting documentation in order to explain and answer questions on what they had been doing as peer educators at their respective workplaces.

In general, it proved that they have shown a great deal of initiative in reaching their target audiences. All three have extended their roles as peer educators extensively into their respective communities. They demonstrated the ability to function in a team together with management, the committee and the Occupational Health Nurses. They each organized sessions with peers and reached many in their roles, both at the workplace and in the community. Thus, it should be underlined that all candidates are in principle winners for the award. However, one nominee stood out for receiving the award for the SWHAP Peer Educator Achievement Award 2011 for South Africa:

Phillip Phoswa, Tetra Pak



After winning the Peer Educators award in the previous year, Phillip has proved to be growing from strength to strength in what he is doing in his role as a Peer Educator in the company. He is involved in many areas of the company's HIV and AIDS wellness activities. He has been an active Peer Educator for the company for a long time and takes his role as a Peer Educator seriously, with commitment and passion.

He is very confident in the role that he is playing and expands that to the broader community in his position as a pastor. His involvement allows him to take initiatives in making a difference in the company and empowering others. He indicated in his motivation that he is always inspired by his values and moral responsibility towards fellow human beings, which is one of the requirements to being an effective Peer Educator.

Winning this award will assist Phillip to continue to inspire other people in and around the companies and continue to do the good work he is doing.

Runner-up Peer Educators for the Peer Educator Achievement:

Junior Ndimande, ABB

Peer Educator Second Prize

Junior is a very motivated and positive Peer Educator in his company. When he started as a Peer Educator he was not outspoken but showed a lot of interest in many activities. Now he is at point where he is very confident and articulate. He shows more passion in his role and eager to learn more. He always asks questions about how to go about in doing things where he is uncertain. Junior is gradually growing to be the best Peer Educator and there is still more room for him to develop. It is also interesting to note that through the support of other Peer Educators and his committee members has proved to have made a significant growth in his skills as a Peer Educator. His interest and passion as a Peer Educator goes beyond his workplace but also extends to the community that he identified as a needy community. He once a quarter gathers the people in the rural farm community and gives them HIV and AIDS education and distributes condoms and information booklets and pamphlets.

This award will give Junior and his team a lot of courage and motivation and will allow him to grow more because of the recognition that comes with it.

David Mandhadzi, Sandvik

Peer Educator Third Prize

David only joined Sandvik Rustenburg in 2010, but he has fitted very well in his job and role as a Peer Educator. With so much energy and enthusiasm, he manages to fit in perfectly in his role because he has the personality for that.

David managed to make himself visible and available to his peers by making a positive impact to their lives in a very short space of time. He is very keen and has an inquisitive mind which is a quality that makes him to do the best in what he is doing. Despite him being a newcomer and not having any formal training, the passion that he has means his modest efforts make a huge impact. There is still a lot of room for growth however and a lot of mentorship and training is needed to make sure that he stays motivated and on the right track.

Winning this award will motivate him and his team to ensure that they put more efforts in making their programmes the best.

The SWHAP Achievement Award has been given out since 2008. In 2011 the four categories for the award are Most Comprehensive Workplace Programme; Best Progress in Workplace Programming; Peer Educator Achievement Award; and Most Innovative Intervention. The assessment for the Most Comprehensive Programme Award was carried out through an extensive questionnaire of 17 questions and 68 benchmarks. For more information on the award, please contact info@swhap.org. For more information on Swedish Workplace HIV and AIDS Programme, please visit www.swhap.org.