





TRANSFORMHER

BRITISH COUNCIL

JULY 2026

SPECIAL EDITION

WINNERS' *Edition*

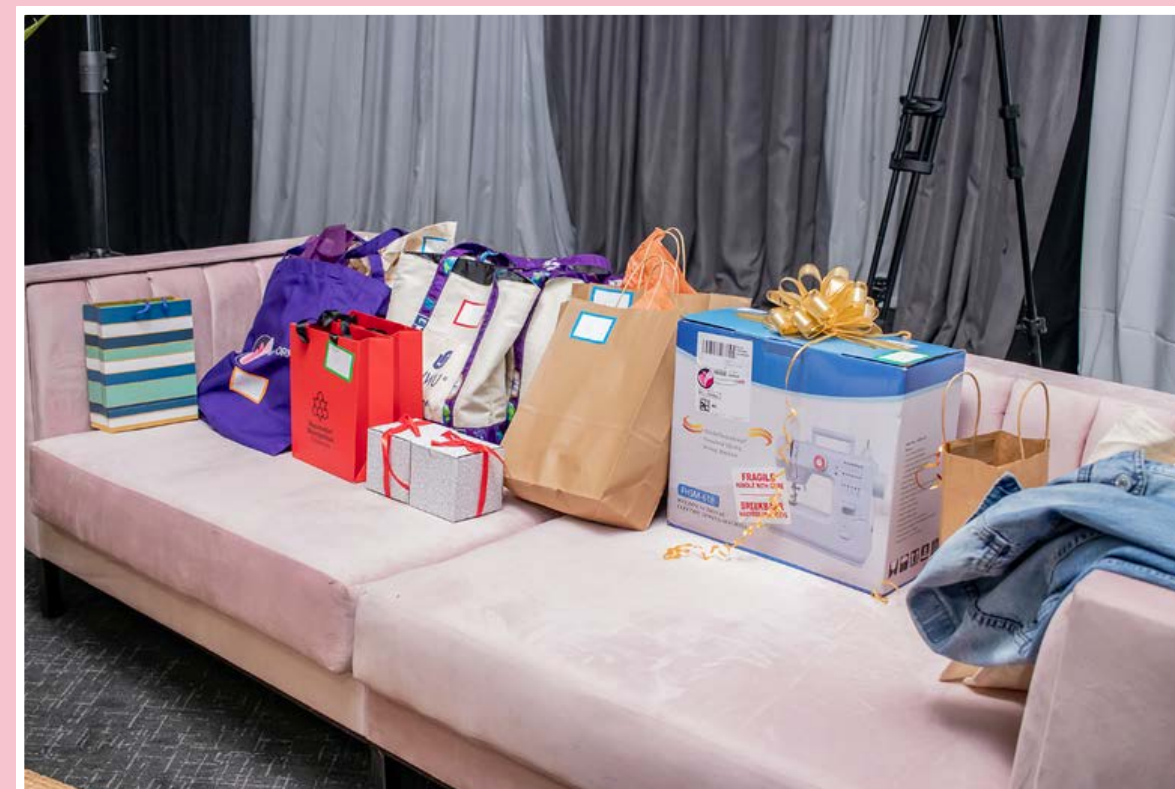
CELEBRATING INNOVATION.
EMPOWERING FUTURES.

A VIRTUAL MAGAZINE CELEBRATING THE
BRIGHTEST MINDS OF TOMORROW.



Celebrating the 2026 Living Lab Winners

Excitement filled the room on 14 July as 10 sponsors came together for the SWEEP TransformHER Living Lab Prize evening. During a live draw, a beautifully decorated prize box revealed the numbers of 17 lucky students, each walking away with incredible prizes and an unforgettable experience. Thank you to our sponsors.



About the event



TRANSFORMHER



Ntebogeng Mabula:

Sol Plaatjie University

My name is Ntebogeng Mabula, and I am a final-year Retail Business Management student at Sol Plaatjie University. I am passionate about entrepreneurship, innovation, and empowering communities through sustainable business solutions. I enjoy learning, developing my leadership and problem-solving. Being selected as a Living Lab SWEEP TransformHER prize winner is an honour, and I am grateful for the opportunity to grow, connect with inspiring individuals, and contribute to positive change through entrepreneurship and innovation.





Tchissola Khumalo:

University of the Witwatersrand

Tchissola Khumalo is the founder of Ignite Mentorship & Development Programme (IgniteMD) and a postgraduate student at Wits Business School. Since founding IgniteMD in 2025, she has reached over 300 learners across 13+ schools, helping young people make informed career choices through mentorship and university exposure programmes. A BA Industrial Psychology graduate, she serves as the Vice Chairperson of the Wits Student Women Economic Empowerment Programme, Wits Entrepreneurship Hub Volunteer of the Year 2025, and a 1st Runner-Up in the Enactus Summer Action Challenge. She combines entrepreneurial experience, student leadership and a passion for creating opportunities for young people



Lesego Mafatle

University of the Free State

I am Lesego Mafatle, a final year Bachelor of Social Sciences student at the University of the Free State, majoring in Industrial Psychology and Political Sciences, with Business Management as an elective. I am driven by the motto, "Let the sight of the things I yearn for ignite the spark within me to move forward." I am a transformational and servant leader who values excellence, perseverance and optimism. My passion for leadership, entrepreneurship and empowering others has shaped my involvement in student leadership and the SWEEP network. I remain committed to creating meaningful opportunities and contributing towards positive change through purposeful leadership.

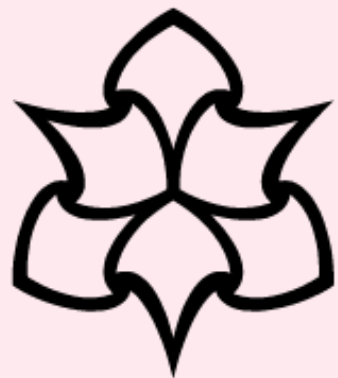


Tshimangadzo Masia

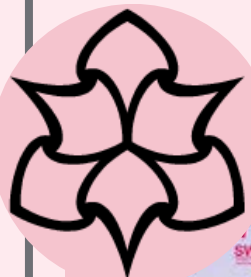
Walter Sisulu

I am Tshimangadzo Masia, a child of God, a final-year BSc Computer Science student, and a graduate in Spatial Intelligence Data Science with expertise in Electronic Repair. I am a Geekulcha Regional 2x hackathon winner and have experience in student assistance roles at Walter Sisulu University. I am the founder of MANGI GROUP (PTY) LTD, a multi-sector enterprise shortlisted in the Enactus FORD Philanthropy Challenge Top 12 out of 26 South African universities. I am driven to transform young women holistically across faith, business, and purpose.





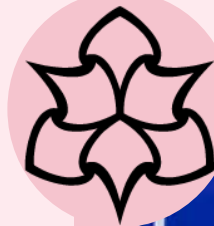
**Manchester
Metropolitan
University**



Velisani Jiki

Rhodes University

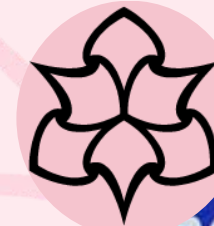
My name is Velisani Jiki, a Bachelor of Social Sciences student at Rhodes University majoring in Politics and Economics, and an Allan Gray Orbis Foundation Fellow. Losing both of my parents at a young age shaped my resilience, determination, and desire to create a better future. Today, I am a student entrepreneur, property owner, and passionate advocate for youth entrepreneurship. Through leadership and community engagement, I am committed to empowering young people, especially women, to believe in their potential and create opportunities for themselves. I believe entrepreneurship is a powerful tool for transforming lives, strengthening communities, and building a more inclusive future.



Shurayda Engelbrecht:

Sol Plaatje University

I'm Shu-Rayda Engelbrecht, a third-year Bachelor of Education student at Sol Plaatje University. I joined SWEEP in 2024 because of the genuine sense of sisterhood and the opportunities it creates for women to learn, grow, and support one another. Being a student isn't always easy, studying can be challenging, but I've learned that every challenge is an opportunity to grow. Through SWEEP, I've been inspired by the knowledge and experiences shared by others, which has strengthened my interest in entrepreneurship and leadership. I'm a family-oriented person who embraces new opportunities with enthusiasm and enjoys learning from those around me.





Siyolise Tikayo

University of Fort Hare

I'm Siyolise, a scholar by passion and a lucky-draw winner by delightful statistical surprise. I collect questions more than answers, chase ideas as enthusiastically as distinctions and believe the best conversations are the ones that change your mind. My favourite reminder? If you're the smartest person in every room, you're probably in the wrong rooms. So, I'm always looking for bigger rooms, better questions and deeper conversations. Life is one fascinating research project and I'm happily taking notes – one chapter, one conversation and now, one lucky prize at a time.



Zanele Dira

University of the Witwatersrand

Zanele Dira is the Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of Thuto My Legacy NPO and the Director of Beverly-D Events, a South African events and catering company. She is a postgraduate student at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits University), where she combines academic research with entrepreneurship and community development. Zanele serves as Treasurer of the Student Women Economic Empowerment Programme (SWEET) and was recognised as a prize winner at the National SWEET Conference. She has represented South Africa in leading entrepreneurship programmes, including the Global Student Entrepreneurship Awards (GSEA) Middle East and Africa Regional Competition in Dubai.

In 2026, she won First Prize at both the AFRETEC Entrepreneurship Conference in Nairobi and the Carnegie Mellon University Africa Entrepreneurship Conference for her innovative solutions addressing climate change and youth unemployment. Zanele was also featured on eNCA News, advocating for reduced barriers facing South African SMMEs and promoting youth entrepreneurship, women's economic empowerment, innovation, and sustainable development across Africa.





Letsepe Moabelo:

Nelson Mandela University

My name is Letsepe Moabelo, a student at Nelson Mandela University, an entrepreneur, and a purpose-driven leader. I am a Deputy Chairperson of the Student Women Economic Empowerment Programme (SWEEP), and I am intentional about creating spaces where young women feel seen, heard, and empowered to step boldly into leadership and business. I am currently managing a Student Tuckshop on campus, and it has strengthened my resilience, discipline, and passion for entrepreneurship. I am driven by a vision greater than myself to uplift, inspire, and create opportunities for others. TransformHER represents the kind of woman I am becoming, a, bold, impactful, and committed to changing lives. I aspire to own multiple businesses in the near future.



Lemohang Serape:

University of Johannesburg

Lemohang Serape is a Graphic design student currently pursuing her honours degree at the University of Johannesburg. She covers illustration, visual brand identity, and publication design. Graphic design was never really part of my plan, but here I stand, knee-deep in an Honours degree and quietly eyeing a Master's, because apparently one detour wasn't enough. Along the way, design has taught me to communicate with intention and to accept that the ugliest first draft is usually just a good idea in a disguise. I'm passionate about illustration and creating work that is fun and visually appealing to the viewer while maintaining my unique style. While I hope that one day my work will change the world, for now, having fun designs is all I'm happy with. I draw, read, and run a recently founded digital monthly subscription brand called "LemonDrop" that pairs my love for sneakers and make-up.





Matshidiso Hlongwane

University of the Free State

My name is Matshidiso Cinderella Hlongwane. I am from QwaQwa, Dibuilt, Free State, South Africa. My past experiences, together with the experiences and perspectives I have learned from other people, have helped shape the person I am today. I am a bubbly person who is fun to be around and enjoys sharing information with others. People often see me as a leader and a problem solver. I value family, loyalty, and empathy, and I believe these values guide the way I interact with people. I am passionate about solving real-world problems by developing innovative solutions for both today's challenges and those of the future. In my free time, I enjoy watching movies and playing cards. One of my greatest personal achievements has been overcoming procrastination. I have dopted the mindset, I do it now, or I cry later, which reminds me to take action. My biggest motivation is my future self the woman I aspire to become. Every decision I make today is a step toward becoming that person.



Keneilwe Baby Mbele

North-West University

From Sasolburg, Free State, I am an ambitious scholar and student leader bridging human behaviour and quantitative problem solving. Holding a degree in Psychology and currently pursuing BSc in Mathematical Sciences at North West University, I combine deep analytical skills with a passion for student empowerment. I have demonstrated exceptional leadership through various student governance roles, including Education and Research officer and Deputy Chairperson of NWU DODEA, Deputy Chairperson of NWU VPC ANCYL and SWEEP Student Engagement and Partnerships Coordinator. As a TransformHer awardee, I remain dedicated to driving institutional growth, gender empowerment and student success.





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Alicia Buhle Xaba

University of Mpumalanga

I've struggled a lot to identify who I am, in a way that I had to go back and give myself an introspective look deeply in who I am. I guess I'll never get to know 100% who I am because I grow everyday. If one could have told me I have the qualities of being a leader few months ago I would have never believed however I've been given the opportunity to lead a group of students and all I can say is I am learning a lot about WHO I AM. Well just a bliss of who Alicia Buhle Xaba is we can say she's a young lady who is open minded. I grew up in a diverse community and being the first child of my family gave me the opportunity to be the start of almost everything. I'm fully proud of the woman in me and the one I'm becoming. My family has taught me to be business minded, so I am looking for a bright future for myself. I'm one who has done business and still in one even today, even though I stumble and fall there but I am proud to have such guidance in my life because that reminds me of what I want for me and my future. I am a black women 21 years of age interesting in exploring and learning however I'm still going to discover who I am but will never fully comprehend who I am as I grow everyday. What an experience I've been given to join such an incredible organisation, on my first conference I opted to bring back a gift, a very special one indeed because this is an opportunity for me to learn new skills and continue figuring out WHO I AM, and that is my story a new chapter added in knowing who I am.





Lusanda Msebi

University of the Western Cape

Lusanda Msebi is a youth leader, sustainability advocate, and Founder of CYDA Africa NPC, an organization that initiated the Scholars for Change programme at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) to empower students as agents of social impact. She currently serves as Chairperson of the SWEEP UWC Chapter, leading initiatives that advance sustainability and youth engagement. Passionate about environmental justice, leadership development, and community transformation, Lusanda was recently selected to attend the One Young World Summit through the prestigious Z Zurich Foundation Scholarship, joining a global community of young leaders driving positive change.



Nobuhle Mbali Zikalala:

University of the Western Cape

I am Nobuhle Mbali Zikalala a 20 year old student, studying a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications at the university of the Western Cape. I have many interests including painting, playing tennis and reading books but most importantly I am passionate about women empowerment and sisterhood. Coming from a background where I was not expected to make it out of the township I am driven by the gap in the economy which makes it difficult for black women especially to prosper. I am the first born daughter of a woman who is a statistic of the economic inequality struggles that prevail in South Africa and so this has motivated my participation in SWEEP and my academic career of which I am a two time deans list candidate of. Moreover I am also in the works of creating my own program known as lumora, it is a society of sisterhood and kinship directed towards university female students who want to be part of a community of women building one another in all aspects of life. My experiences include being a PR and Marketing manager for SWEEP UWC and the Social media manger of UWC Tennis, which I have taken to recognisable heights around campus. If I were to describe my self in three words I'd say I am passionate, optimistic and whimsy. These words are what drive my endeavours. I also currently own two business, a baking business making all sorts of pastries which I have placed on pause because of circumstance and a hair business which I proudly advertise on my self. These business are what subsidies my nsfas allowance and allow me to have savings.





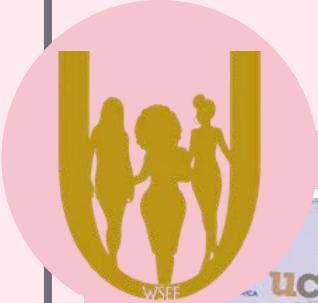
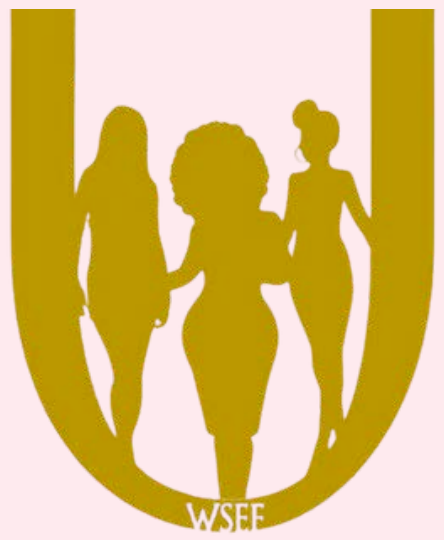
Ntsakisi Nxumalo:

North-West University

I am Ntsakisi Nxumalo, a 20-year old from Mpumalanga. I am studying for a Bachelor of Commerce in Financial Accountancy degree at North West University (Vanderbijlpark) and this is my final year. I bring the power of intention into every room I enter. I am the voice for voiceless women. I am interested in creative writing, I read screenplays and novels. In the next 10 years I see myself running Africa's best film production company. But for now, I will start with a Social Media Management Agency. Reliable, ambitious and, creative are three words that best describe me.



Ubambano Women SA Entrepreneurship Forum



Lindokuhle Skosana University of the Western Cape

Proudly rooted in Limpopo, driven by lived experience and a passion for social justice, I am a Master of development studies candidate and social entrepreneur dedicated to tackling systemic challenges. My work focuses on creating innovative, sustainable business solutions that combat Gender-Based Violence and empower women to thrive. Combining academic research with ground-level community engagement, I am committed to building safe, equitable environments where vulnerable voices are heard and protected. I aim to merge purpose, enterprise, and leadership to drive lasting, transformative change across South Africa and the global community.

