

2018 Allan Gray Entrepreneurship Challenge winners

The Allan Gray Entrepreneurship Challenge (AGEC) named KwaZulu-Natal's Maris Stella High School student, Shriyaa Sooklal, as the winner of its 2018 digital learning competition, at AGEC grand finale at Gold Reef City in Johannesburg on Thursday, 11 October 2018.



AGEC was established by Allan Gray and developed by the Allan Gray Orbis Foundation. The Challenge was designed to develop a culture of entrepreneurship in the minds of grades 8-12 using digital learning and gamification.

Currently in its second year, the challenge seeks to inspire learners on how to influence change in their community, their country and the world. Learners were required to complete weekly micro-challenges that further exposed them to a variety of entrepreneurial skills, which were then applied to real-world scenarios. During weeks one to three, learners began their entrepreneurial journey by exploring local challenges and opportunities in the areas of social entrepreneurship, transportation and healthcare. In weeks four to six, the competition shifted focus to global themes of climate change, artificial intelligence and blockchain technology. The final event wrapped-up six weeks of inter-school and inter-pupil participation across the country.

According to Anthony Selley, AGEC's head of Gameplay, entry participation doubled for the 2018 season, from 4,000 in 2017 to more than 8,000 in 2018. In addition, more than 600 schools across the country participated in this year's challenge.

The AGECE top five candidates include:

- 1st place: Shriyaa Sooklal – Maris Stella High School
- 2nd place: Sara Gopal – Riebeek College Girls High School
- 3rd place: Saheel Rajnarain – Crawford College
- 4th place: Kai Parsons – Cedar House School
- 5th place: Tahir Omar Carrim – Sutherland High School

Selley says the challenge seeks to directly address the country's alarming levels of unemployment using entrepreneurship as the main vehicle for change. The competition focused on developing five overarching 'habits of thought', identified through academic research as key components of an entrepreneurial mindset. These include: intellectual imagination (innovation); personal initiative (initiative); courageous commitment (resilience); spirit of significance (change maker) and achievement excellence (drive).

Generation Schools Hermanus is the challenge's top performing school with Glenwood House in second place, followed by Maris Stella, Kloof High School, Somerset College, in third, fourth and fifth place respectively.

"It's been a phenomenal season, candidates have demonstrated impeccable skill and they've proved that they have what it takes to think like entrepreneurs. The success of this year's event means we're already in planning phase for a bigger and better 2019 season," Selley says.

The top 20 AGECE learners and schools

Top 20 Performing High Schools (no particular order)	Top 20 Performing Learners (no particular order)
Kitsong High School	Sabrina Isaac
Theodor Herzl High School	Lesli Jane Williams
Horizon International High School	Sam McQuirk
Generation Schools Hermanus	Malaika Maharaj
Glenwood House	Lesedi Mnguni
Crawford College La Lucia	Emihle Tshangana
Bishops Diocesan College	Aphile Shabalala
Durban Girls' High School	Sara Gopal
Sutherland High School	Michael Kotze
Bridge House School	Zuhayr Khan
Maris Stella	Michael Dunlop
Kloof High School	Jacquiline Isaac
Somerset College	Tahir Omar Carrim
Curro Hazeldean	Sachiel Subramoney
Rustenburg Girls' High School	Kai Lemel
Jeppe High School for Girls	Saheel Rajnarain
Crawford College North Coast	Nina Lewis
Eden College Durban	Sachin Mohan
Westville Girls' High School	Shriyaa Sooklal
Reddam House Constantia	Kai Parsons

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