

Challenge to young minds

Rusana Philander

MORE than 300 Grade 10 learners from Western Cape competed in the first round of the inaugural HIP2B² 3M Innovation Challenge in Mitchell's Plain.

Later learners will compete for the title of SA's Top Young Innovators against KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng.

The competition is the initiative of HIP2B² and the technology company 3M. Since 2002 the organisation HIP2B², founded by Mark Shuttleworth, has been working to stimulate young minds and interest them in science, maths, technology and entrepreneurship.

Serita Essellaar of 3M said the quality of education and the number of maths and science graduates is directly linked to the sustainability of a country's economy.

"We want to see the project ultimately feeding the pipeline of scarce skills in the fields of engineering and technology, changing public perceptions of these fields and encouraging learners to look to them as possible career choices," Essellaar said.

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