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Poly and B360 form Alumni Association



Some of the first members of the Alumni Association: From left, back: Selma Haludilu, Elise Uusiku, Nadepewa Kwedhi, Justina Keendjele, Christalin Mushongo and Charmain Jaeger, (from left, front), Nicco Matengu, Nancee de Koe, Iona Shikongo, Ruth Andreas, Saara Shakumbu, Martha Hanhindi and Martin Edward.

The Poly and the B360 Education Partnerships have established an Alumni Association of Poly students who have completed internships with Swiss companies. The two institutions also renewed the original Memorandum of Understanding signed five years ago.

The B360 Education Partnerships, a non-profit Swiss organisation, focuses on the transfer of knowledge and capacity building by means of education and voluntary education. The B360 Education Partnerships encourages Swiss companies and their active or retired workforce to voluntarily share their knowledge and expertise with students in Southern Africa. This voluntary approach sets them apart from many other organisations.

The experts, upon returning home, find internship opportunities for Poly students with Swiss companies. "This give-and-take partnership has grown faster than anyone could have imagined, and after the first two students were placed at a local Swiss Bank in 2011, many more companies in Switzerland have shown a willingness to take in Poly students. To date, the B360 Education Partnerships has placed 17 students from various disciplines at different companies in Switzerland," explained Sabina Balmer, Founder and President of

B360 Education Partnerships.

Balmer said the Alumni Association was established primarily to give the group of young Namibians who have shared experiences, the opportunity to be part of the goals of B360 and to contribute to capacity building in Southern Africa.

The Rector, Prof Tjama Tjivikua, said the collaboration and continued growth is stronger than before. "In addition to exposing students to the international workforce, the B360 Education Partnerships is about building character," he said.



Sabina Balmer of B360 Education Partnerships and Prof Tjama Tjivikua sign the Memorandum of Understanding.