

FREE STATE COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND TRAINING COLLEGE
Financial Statements for the 9 month period ended 31 December 2015
Council's Responsibilities and Approval

The council is required by the Continuing Education and Training Act No. 16 of 2006, as amended, to maintain adequate accounting records and is responsible for the content and integrity of the financial statements and related financial information included in this report. It is the responsibility of council to ensure that the financial statements fairly present the state of affairs of the College as at the end of the financial year and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended, in conformity with GRAP. The external auditors were engaged to express an independent opinion on the financial statements and was given unrestricted access to all financial records, related data and relevant parties.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Standards of GRAP including any interpretations, guidelines and directives issued by the ASB and in the manner required by the Minister of Higher Education and Training.

The financial statements are based on appropriate accounting policies consistently applied and supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates.

Council acknowledges that it is ultimately responsible for the system of internal financial control established by the College and places considerable importance on maintaining a strong control environment, which includes the safeguarding of assets and compliance with relevant legislation. To enable the council to meet these responsibilities, the council sets standards for internal control aimed at reducing risk in a cost effective manner. The standards include the proper delegation of responsibilities within a clearly defined framework, effective accounting and other procedures, and adequate segregation of duties to ensure an acceptable level of risk. These controls are monitored throughout the College and employees and management are required to maintain the highest ethical standards in ensuring the College's business is conducted in a manner that in all reasonable circumstances is above reproach. The focus of risk management in the College is on identifying, assessing, managing and monitoring all known forms of risk across the College. While operating risk cannot be fully eliminated, the College endeavours to minimise it by ensuring that appropriate infrastructure, controls, systems and ethical behaviour are applied and managed within predetermined procedures and constraints.

The council accepts its responsibility to ensure that the College is managed in a responsible manner, considering the interest of all stakeholders, including the DHET, unions, employees, students, local communities and creditors. Responsible management entails, inter alia, compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, including risk management.

The council is of the opinion, based on the information and explanations given by management, that the system of internal control provides reasonable assurance that the financial records may be relied on for the preparation of the financial statements and that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. However, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable, and not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or deficit.

The council has reviewed the College's cash flow forecast for the year to 31 December 2016 and, in the light of this review and the current financial position, it is satisfied that the College has, or has access to, adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The College is dependent on the DHET for continued funding of operations in line with the annual DHET programme funding allocation. The financial statements are prepared on the basis that the College is a going concern and that the DHET has neither the intention nor the need to liquidate or curtail materially the scale of the College's operations.

The external auditors are responsible for independently auditing and reporting on the College's financial statements and their report is presented with these financial statements.

The financial statements set out on page 2 to 19 were approved by the council on 15 March 2019 and were signed on its behalf by:

RF Sello

Chairperson of the Council

15 March 2019