



## **UMDALI GETTING IT RIGHT FOR 8 YEARS**

By Ilze Moore  
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**The Umdali institute situated in Germiston has enjoyed 8 years of educating students in the development of practical skills. Umdali offers a space for learners to turn their passion into a career, as well as practically utilising their training in the cut-throat job market.**

The institute, a lifelong dream of Drs Hendrik and Phillicia Bester, opened its doors in 1990 when Dr Bester left the business world to follow a spiritual calling. Umdali, the Zulu word meaning “creator” aims to create a safe, Christocentric atmosphere for students to develop their skills and live out their God-called destinies. Always loving the arts and believing it comes from God, Drs Hedrick and Phillicia Bester thought of no better way to pay homage to the ultimate artist and creator.

The institute offers accredited courses, as well as non-accredited courses in counselling, practical theology, visual and performing arts - as well as a gap year program. The popular Gap year program is Christian-based in which students are trained to handle difficult life situations, transforming them into mature and whole adults. “Talent takes you to the top but a strong character keeps you there,” says Dr Bester, a strong advocate for the program.

Umdali is a partner to the annual International Creative Arts Conference which attracts more than 2000 visitors and 700 delegates each year. In addition to the courses, the institute offers workshops throughout the year offering skills training in arts and crafts, film production, photography and selected practical theology and counselling subjects. Creative development subjects such as art, dance, vocal training, drama and public speaking classes are also available for both junior and high school children.

The Umdali institution, rooted in Christianity, aims to arm students with skills to succeed in the working world as well as create independent and self-actualised alumni concurrently. For more information contact the Umdali Institute

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