

## Webcom and HP Business Institute learnership programme

The Webcom Group, in partnership with the HP Business Institute (HPBI), is giving three students the opportunity to establish themselves as IT professionals by providing them with working experience while they are studying for IT qualifications through the HPBI. The students are equipped with valuable practical knowledge, enhancing their theoretical studies and enabling them to further improve their skills.

In 2009, Fiona Mohlala, Vuyokazi Mhlonitshwa and Thabo Ndabambi received their NQF Level 4 and IT Tech Support national certificates from HPBI. To further their career opportunities all three registered in 2010 for their Microsoft IT Professional qualification. However, they needed to augment their studies with 'real life' working experience. This was when the Webcom Group stepped in and took these three individual under their wing.

"Every month we spend three weeks working and one week at school," explains Fiona. "The experience we are gaining working on the help desk and doing desk top support is invaluable."

"Webcom is very much aware of the IT skills shortage in South Africa," says Glen Miller CEO of The Webcom Group. "By offering learners work place experience we aim to contribute to counteracting this shortage."

The HPBI was founded in 2007 with the aim to grow and develop the potential of Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) individuals and assist small enterprises to grow and develop their graduates, providing them with business and technical skills. The Webcom Group is a certified HP partner and it made sense for them to assist individuals that are completing their studies with solid practical experience.