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ABB inspires the next generation with its commitment to STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) plays a critical role in fostering innovation and driving economic development. Countries around the world, including South Africa, are increasingly aware that empowering the youth in these fields will secure a more prosperous, tech-savvy future. At [ABB](http://www.abb.com), the commitment to fostering talent in STEM is more than just a mission; it is a core value integral to its culture. ABB encourages its engineers to push boundaries, solve real-world problems, and make meaningful contributions to society.

ABB proudly commemorates STEM Day by spotlighting exceptional women in its employ. This is also a background to our Unstoppable campaign to harness the power of diversity to drive progress. The campaign highlights the inspiring stories of individuals from all walks of life who have been unstoppable in breaking down barriers and making significant contributions in their respective fields. At ABB, we continue to champion the power of diversity and pave the way for a brighter, more inclusive future, as highlighted by the following two profiles.

**Jashmika Telukdarrie: Mechanical Engineer, Hoisting**

Jashmika, an Engineer-in-Training in ABB’s Hoisting LBL, started her journey with ABB in January 2024. She holds a BSc in Mechanical Engineering from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and works as part of the Mechanical Engineering team, focusing on the design of hoisting systems primarily for underground mining. “Engineering allows me to turn abstract ideas and complex problems into practical, real-world solutions,” she explains. “The process of analysing challenges, designing systems, and watching those solutions come to life is incredibly rewarding.”

Her passion extends beyond just solving technical problems; she views engineering as a means to drive community development and economic growth. “Engineering can support sustainable development by providing energy-efficient systems and improving quality of life,” she says. “As engineers, we have the knowledge to address critical issues and drive long-term community transformation and environmental improvement.”

Jashmika credits ABB for helping her grow in her early career. "My role as an Engineer-in-Training has given me the opportunity to work alongside seasoned professionals whose experience has been invaluable to me. ABB’s mentoring programmes and graduate sessions have promoted both my professional and personal development.”

She stresses the importance of STEM education in South Africa. "STEM education will drive our nation’s economic expansion and help us overcome critical challenges. It will give South Africa a competitive edge and allow us to be recognised as a global leader." Her advice to young people aspiring to enter STEM fields is to “stay curious and confident. Do not be afraid to challenge yourself, as that is where you gain the most knowledge.”

**Busiswa Zikolo, Electrical Engineer, Hoisting**

Another Engineer-in-Training in ABB’s Hoisting department, Busiswa holds a BTech in Electrical Engineering and has further honed her practical skills through a millwright trade test. Her hands-on experience bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application. Before joining ABB, Busiswa worked as a Service and Project Engineer, where she developed a focus on service work and commissioning of hoisting systems.

“In my current position, I conduct Level 1 audits and brake dynamics tests to ensure the safety and functionality of winder systems,” she explains. Working with a skilled team, Busiswa is dedicated to ensuring these systems operate smoothly, preventing downtime, and proactively addressing potential issues.

For Busiswa, engineering represents a blend of creativity and practical problem-solving, and she sees it as a force for positive change. “Engineering can profoundly impact community development by addressing local challenges and promoting self-sufficiency,” she says. “It empowers communities to improve their quality of life.”

She also highlights ABB’s support in her career journey, citing diverse projects, continuous learning programs, and a collaborative environment as key contributors to her growth. “ABB has equipped me with the skills and knowledge I need to grow in this field,” she comments, acknowledging the company’s investment in her development.

Echoing Jashmika’s views, Busiswa believes that promoting STEM education is essential to South Africa’s future success. “STEM education drives economic growth by equipping the next generation with skills to innovate and contribute to key industries like technology, renewable energy, and manufacturing.” Her advice to youth interested in STEM is to “stay curious, be persistent, and embrace challenges as learning opportunities. Do not be afraid to ask questions, seek mentors, and explore different areas of STEM to find what excites you most.”

At ABB, nurturing young talent in STEM is vital for advancing technology, fostering sustainable development, and contributing to economic growth in South Africa. Jashmika and Busiswa are perfect examples of how STEM can open doors and allow young professionals to make an impact. Their stories not only inspire the next generation but also remind us of the critical role STEM education plays in building a brighter future for everyone. ABB remains committed to supporting young engineers, providing them with the tools, mentorship, and opportunities they need to excel and become the leaders of tomorrow. We also invite high school learners from various communities to meet with ABB employees who provide insights into STEM fields within the organisation. This initiative encourages young people to explore the myriad opportunities available in STEM careers.

ABB’s Unstoppable campaign is a film series that profiles three remarkable women leaders in the mining, pulp and paper and metals industries. These women have broken down barriers and made significant contributions. Through this campaign, ABB aims to raise awareness of the importance of diversity and inclusion and encourage more women to pursue STEM careers. Watch the film series [here](https://new.abb.com/process-automation/unstoppable).

**ENDS**

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**ABB Group**
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