

### Working with Lesotho College of Education (LCE)

Skillshare International has forged a close partnership with Lesotho College of Education (LCE). In order to contribute towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 2 (To improve access to education for all) we recruited and placed a Project Co-ordinator with the college to support the UNESCO-funded Capacity Building Project in April 2004. The project had an initial duration of two years, but thanks to our development worker the project has been extended until the end of July 2006. With a budget of over US\$200,000, it has been designed to assist LCE in the provision of up-to-date learning materials; in-service training of lecturers in research and consultancy skills; and re-training of lecturers in areas of special need such as special education, early childhood education and life skills education. A national steering committee was formed to oversee the project.



Skillshare International development worker James Urwick, who is funded through our PPA with DFID, has tremendously improved the capacity of the institution by training 21 members of staff who have now completed an advanced, in-service training course in research and consultancy skills, while 19 students have completed a basic course.

**Dr. Thabiso Nyabanyaba, trainer in research and consultancy, teaches statistics for research computer class at LCE.**

James has also secured books and journals selected by all academic departments, for the College Library worth approximately 225,000 South Africa Rands. This has supported research and consultancy work as well as staff development.

He has re-trained two lecturers who have been doing postgraduate studies in the institution with a focus on Early Childhood Care Development since January 2005. Three more students begin postgraduate studies this year, two in special education and one in life skills education under James' guidance. There are still more challenges ahead but significant achievements have been recorded with the sole aim of producing skilled educators to help improve educational programmes in Lesotho.