

Connecting the dots

Stories of change: Women in Local Government Network

Learning through mentoring

Summary

Joyce Khumalo. accountant, Manzini City Council, Manzini, Eswatini
Project participation: Women in Local Government network and mentor

Becoming a mentor as part of the Connecting the Dots project has been an eye-opener for accountant Joyce Kumalo who says that the experience has been a learning curve for herself as well as her mentee and helped her problem-solving skills both professionally and at home.

Background and aims

An experienced accountant at Manzini City Council, Joyce Khumalo volunteered her time to the Connecting the Dots programme as a mentor.

As part of the programme Joyce worked with her mentee through a series of videos addressing all aspects of business, including practical skills and motivation. In particular they focused on setting goals and how they can be achieved. As part of the Women in Local Government Network, both Joyce and her mentee were able to meet like-minded women to share their experiences and knowledge.

Impact

Joyce has found that being a mentor has been a big learning curve for herself as well as her mentee and being able to meet with other professional women as part of the network has also been very helpful.

She also found that the emphasis on setting goals has helped her in her personal life as well as in business. “The programme has been an eye opener and a learning curve for me. I have learned a lot and been able to meet and network with other women,” noted Joyce.

“Participation in the conference has helped improve my communication and interpersonal skills and my ability to solve problems and think creatively.”

The experience has been so positive for Joyce that she says she will continue to volunteer her time as a mentor in future to help more women move forward in their careers.

“I am very grateful to be part of this project. I am keen to be part of future programmes. It was a great journey,” she said.

