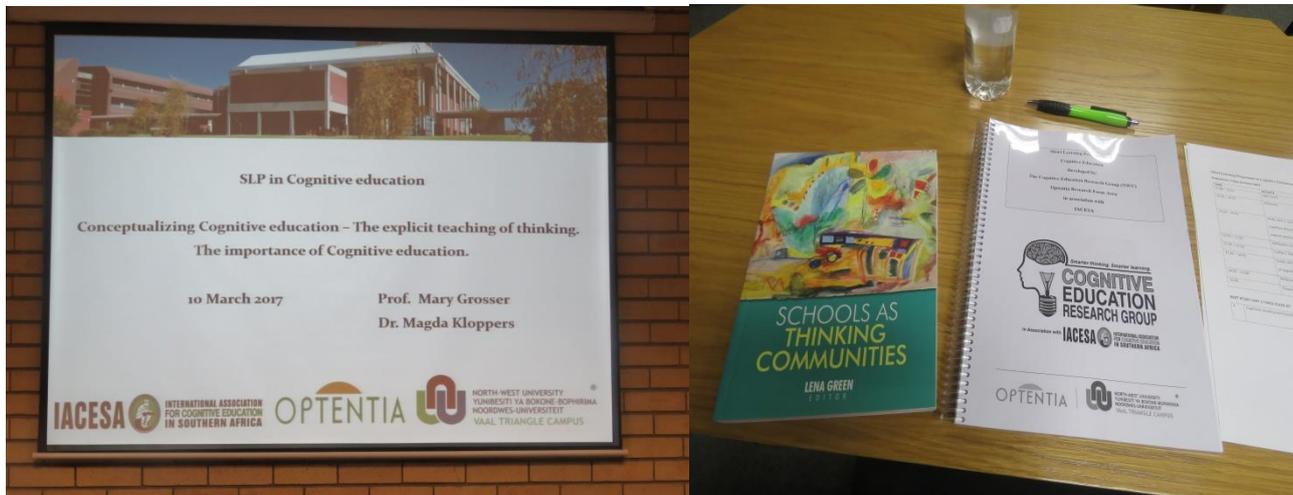


Empowering teachers to teach and assess for thinking

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During 2017, the Cognitive Education Research Group (Optentia Research Focus Area) in Association with the International Association for Cognitive Education in Southern Africa (IACESA) will present a Short Learning Programme (SLP) as a one-year course for 25 SACE CPD points on 10 Saturdays (4 hours per Saturday) (80 notional hours: 40 hours facilitation and 40 hours practical at own time), after which participants will receive a Certificate in Cognitive Education endorsed by the NWU at NQF Level 6.

As part of a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) project for which funding was received, 21 willing and interested teachers from schools in the area surrounding the NWU, Vaal Triangle Campus will be the first group to become part of the project entitled: *Preparing teachers to develop advanced performers: A cognitive approach to teaching, learning and assessment*. The project aims to collect data by means of questionnaires, reflections and interviews in order to establish to what extent the SLP could enhance teachers' knowledge and understanding of as well as their skills to apply cognitive education. Based on the findings, the SLP will be adapted, extended and restructured and its merits assessed in future research projects in wider contexts.

Teacher training institutions are faced with a challenge to turn the tide and make teacher training more effective, so that teachers will be able to provide cognitive education to learners at schools. The new millennium expects of learners to become creative thinkers and problem-solvers, who are equipped with tools that they can utilise whenever they learn, think and make decisions.

The main objective of the research project is therefore to train in-service teachers in the theory and application of Cognitive Education, and based on the findings to make suggestions and recommendations to enhance the teacher education curriculum for pre-service teacher education. South African teachers will acquire practical tools and approaches/strategies suitable for the South African teaching and learning context, in order to transform classroom practices and intentionally unlock learners' cognitive potential, so that they become Advanced Performers of the 21st century. Teachers will be guided and supported to mediate the thinking skills and dispositions that are required for achieving the objectives of the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) actively and explicitly.

The first training session started on 10 March 2017. Below are some of the participants and Dr Magda Kloppers who presented the first training session.



For more information about the SLP, visit the Optentia website:
<http://www.optentia.co.za/project.php?id=Mg%3D%3D> and go to Downloads.