

## **IMPERIAL Logistics wins National Business logistics award**

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IMPERIAL Logistics won the Logistics Award for its contribution to addressing the skills gap in the industry through its 'Fast Forward skills development initiative', at the African Access National Business Awards held on 17 July 2012 at the Sandton Convention Centre. Other competitors in this category included McDonalds South Africa, Renault SA, Berco Express, the Automotive Industry Development Centre and the Electoral Commission of South Africa.



Colette Wessels, Training and Development Manager at IMPERIAL Logistics receiving the prize from Arend du Preez, Managing Director of Kintetsu World Express, sponsor of this category.

Marketing executive, Michelle Neilson and training and development manager, Colette Wessels, represented Imperial on the night.

The awards recognise and honour top performers in business at individual, organisational and governmental level. This year's 10th annual awards event was hosted by SABC's Morning Live presenters Leanne Manas and Vuyo Mbali and attended by over 500 of South Africa's top business and government figures.

The Fast Forward programme aims to grow the South African supply chain industry's skills base, by providing supply chain and logistics education and professional development for current and aspiring

supply chain professionals. It receives a significant percentage of the group's total skills development spend, which was increased from just under R37 million in 2009/2010 to R55 million in the 2010/2011 financial year.

The group aims to achieve some very specific outcomes through the programme. Its CEO, Marius Swanepoel, elaborates, "At a national level, we are striving to address demographic inequities, while developing scarce priority skills - industrial engineers, for example, and specialised supply chain management skills. At an industry level, we aim to elevate the visibility of logistics and supply chain management, while at an organisational level, our aim is to give our people access to lifelong learning, thereby ensuring career mobility for them. Through Fast Forward, we are actively pursuing developmental outcomes for our economy, our industry and our people."

On the industry collaboration and research side, Fast Forward includes a partnership with the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS), with which the group is developing supply chain education programmes and coordinating industry research. Final year project coaching and mentorship is also being undertaken, as well as guest lecturing and sponsorships in partnership with tertiary institutions and professional bodies.

For more information on the award winners, see the [National Business Award winners](#).

Source: [Bizcommunity](#)