

CONCRETE FEATURES





Candice Goosen

CANDICE AMONG SIX VYING FOR THE PAFSA CROWN

As the battle for skills and competence ramps up, organisations the world over are putting increasing store in attracting and retaining talent, keeping intellectual capital where it belongs – in their own offices. Over the years, the cidb has proved adept at recruiting the best people for the job and keeping them.

Candice Goosen, Personal Assistant to Chief Executive Officer Bongani Dladla, is a prime example of employee excellence in action. So much so that she has just been named one of six finalists in the running for the 'Personal Assistant of the Year' title from the Professional Association for Secretaries and Administrative Assistants (PAFSA).

This office dynamo joined the cidb team in 2020 and soon revealed the type of qualities that would set her apart as a worthy righthand woman to any company's leader.

Known as a self-starter and called 2IC (second in charge) by her colleagues, Candice is not one to wait for other people to make the first move. 'I prefer to take the initiative rather than look to others to come up with ideas and

suggestions,' she states. 'I persist until a task is completed to my satisfaction and, if there is some difficulty involved, I work at it until I find a suitable solution. I often surprise myself with the solutions I come up with.'

And solutions, it is clear, are the order of Candice's day, as she not only keeps things ticking over at the cidb, but is always ready to assist the organisation's primary stakeholders, often responding to urgent requests from the cidb board of directors or the ministry of public works and infrastructure. Forget the 'nine to five' – some days start at around 7:00 and are a constant whirr of work until 21:00, with debriefing sessions often taking place in the evenings when Bongani's feet finally touch the ground after another business trip.

To make it through that kind of schedule and still sport a smile, Candice relies on her supreme planning and organisational skills, lists her daily tasks on a huge whiteboard and crosses them off one by one. That said, she doesn't shy away from asking workmates for help and she relishes the opportunity to delegate projects to others, which enables them to gain new skills, grow and learn.

'My job is far more than setting meetings and pushing papers,' she quips. 'It's being the fuel that keeps the organisational engine running, whether the boss is in or not.'

Given the PAFSA endorsement, it's hardly surprising to learn that Candice is a variation of the Greek name Candace, meaning glowing. Candice's qualities definitely shone for the judges

and Bongani, an outspoken proponent of women's advancement, is also basking in the glow.

The two certainly make a winning team, as they keep the organisation producing the regulatory goods and its stakeholders comfortable in the knowledge that development and transformation in the built environment couldn't be in more capable hands.

Congratulations Candice! All at the cidb are rooting for you to claim the crown on 4 September 2024.

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