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Efficacy of a student peer mentoring program at a South African higher education institution

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Abstract

The history of segregation in South African education means that the tertiary sector faces serious challenges in the post-apartheid era. Access and retention of first year students has become increasingly important. This paper reports on an evaluation of a student peer mentoring program in an engineering faculty. The findings show that the development of the mentoring relationship is critical to the success of the program. The findings provide a basis from which to develop the program further and attempt to improve its capacity for maximizing student retention.

Keywords Student peer mentoring, engineering students, higher education, first year students