

TERTIARY EDUCATION IS AN HONOUR



Grab it with both hands

By Elaine Brass, HWSETA CEO

As tertiary education students around the country move into the first semester of the academic year, I can't help but contemplate the importance of higher education. I believe that skills development and ongoing education are the cornerstones of a strong society. To enrol in tertiary education is both an honour and a privilege. My advice to students this year is: make the most of it! Spend your time wisely now, so that one day you can look back on this period knowing that you grabbed every opportunity.

There are three students who I believe will heed this advice. In fact, they are already walking the walk. Their enthusiasm for their futures in the healthcare sector is palpable. I am referring to the three winners of the HWSETA undergraduate bursary competition. We are honoured to be able to help these individuals reach for their dreams.

One winner, Sihle Maboya, said: "When I applied for the bursary, I never thought I would actually get it. Now, I get to live out my dream of studying medicine at the University of Cape Town. I feel blessed beyond measure." Another winner, Thandolwethu Mnengisa, told us: "Thank you HWSETA for getting me one step closer to achieving my dream. You have not just helped me, but also eased the financial burden for my family and we are so appreciative."

Dolly Palesa Manganye, our final winner and a third-year student at the University of Johannesburg, said: "I am truly grateful to HWSETA. Not only will this bursary greatly lighten the financial load that comes with being a university student but will also help me realise my dream of becoming a medical laboratory scientist. I can't wait to make a positive contribution to the healthcare sector and society at large."

HWSETA realises that while education is vital, for many it lies just out of reach. We are honoured to be able to help students make their way towards their careers in the health and welfare sector.

To these students and all others, I encourage you to be mindful of your time. For many, tertiary education is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. So, what does making the most of the opportunity mean?

It means prioritising your studies; not just attending lectures, but really engaging in class and with the learning material. Embrace discussion and debate, ask the tough questions, and don't be afraid to think outside of the box. Remember that we live in an era where new discoveries are made every day. You'll never be expected to know it all – but you do need to learn to think critically and stay curious. If you can do this, you'll become an active participant in your sector on a life long learning journey.

To do this effectively, you'll need to brush up on your time management skills. Set yourself up for success by giving yourself enough time for the important things in your life. This means putting time aside for doing assignments and studying, but also seeing friends and family, and engaging in extra-curricular activities. Most tertiary education institutes offer a range of options, and you'd be remiss to not try a few while you're there. If you plan ahead, you will be able to achieve far more.

Finally, I encourage you to lean on each other. Tertiary education can be a bumpy road – especially when exam time comes along. Remember that you are not alone. Work together and make friends along the way that will help you through the tougher times.

HWSETA *would like
to wish all students
the very best
academic year.*



Elaine Brass, HWSETA CEO

[T] 011 607 6900
[E] hwseta@hwseta.org.za