

SU students to benefit from Solomon Mahlangu Fund

Students at Stellenbosch University (SU) will benefit from a grant of nearly R1,5 million by the Solomon Mahlangu Scholarship Fund – an initiative of the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA). The NYDA is a South African based agency established primarily to tackle challenges that the nation's youth are faced with.

The grant is to be used as bursaries and will make provision for 17 undergraduate students to study for 3 or 4 years – depending on the length of their particular programme.

- ***The NYDA Solomon Mahlangu Scholarship Fund Cheque Hand Over Ceremony is to be held at 14:00 at the Wallenberg Research Centre at STIAS in Marais Street in Stellenbosch on Wednesday 25 June.***

SU Rector and Vice-Chancellor Prof Russel Botman and Executive Chairperson of the NYDA Mr Yershen Pillay will each give an address. Bursary recipients Ms Naadgira Parker, studying medicine and Mr Athi Belem, studying towards a BScAgric degree, will give a student's view on bursary funding.

The Solomon Mahlangu Scholarship Fund was established by the NYDA in 2013 and officially launched by President Jacob Zuma. The Scholarship Fund provides financial support to young people who have been accepted to pursue full-time degrees in courses that fall within the priority growth sectors and critical and scarce skills areas as outlined in the labour planning frameworks of the country.

"The Solomon Mahlangu Scholarship Fund is an initiative very close to my heart," says Mr Pillay. "As the NYDA we want to make it our mission to keep Madiba's passion for education alive and ensure that the future of our youth and this country is made bright through education. I would like to congratulate our most recent recipients and urge them to continue achieving great strides towards becoming skilled professionals."

Prof Botman says SU is proud of its role as an asset to society as a whole. "Stellenbosch University strives to contribute to development – both on the national scale and at the level of individuals. As we broaden access to higher education in South Africa, we need to promote student success at the same time. This grant will help us do exactly that."

The Scholarship Fund covers 100% costs of the student's studies including tuition, books, meals and accommodation.

The Solomon Mahlangu Scholarship Fund is in honour of the late struggle icon Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu, a- member of Umkhonto we Sizwe who was executed under apartheid laws in 1979 at the age of 23.

- For more information, contact Mr Khaya Jack on 021 808 9262 or e-mail kjack@sun.ac.za.

MORE INFORMATION ON THE SOLOMON MAHLANGU SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In 2013 the NYDA conceptualised the Solomon Mahlangu Scholarship Fund as part of a new focus on Education and Skills Development, the main service that would be offered to youth. The aim of the fund is to recognise academic excellence, particularly amongst youth from rural areas and townships and to create an enabling environment for remarkable students to excel in institutions of higher learning without the added stress of financial pressures.