



Congratulations to our CHS recipients of the UKZN Talent Excellence & Equity Acceleration Scholarship

UKZN's HR Division introduced an exciting programme to promote a career in academia through a scholarship. The Talent Excellence & Equity Acceleration Scholarship is aimed at young graduates that are passionate about dedicating one's self to a subject matter through research and innovation, developing and training others through teaching and learning and making a contribution to the lives of individuals and communities. These young graduates have aspirations to enter academia at UKZN. Our successful recipients for 2016 are Ms Noluthando Mazibuko, Mr Siyabonga Shezi and Mr Simphiwe Mabaso.



Noluthando Mazibuko

Ms Noluthando Mazibuko (25) always dreamt of studying to become a medical doctor when she grew up but finances, opportunities and the relevant information were lacking.

It was after matriculating from Hlathikhulu High School in Escourt that she was channeled to pursue a Bachelor of Science augmented degree with majors in Microbiology, Biochemistry and Plant Pathology. She persevered and obtained her Honours in Medical Microbiology.

Today, an HIV Pathogenesis Programme Medical Science Master's student at UKZN, Mazibuko has embarked on research intended to determine immune system kinetics when people are initiated on antiretroviral therapy by looking at the functionality of 'antigen presenting cells' and to determine the effect of sex hormones on these cells functionality.

Excited to have received the Talent Excellence and Equity Acceleration Scholarship, Mazibuko said she was determined to make a positive difference in other people's lives. She worked as a Student Assistant Librarian at the Life Sciences Library where she mastered paying attention to detail while crafting her interpersonal, organisational and time management skills.



Siyabonga Shezi

Sport Science Master's student, Mr Siyabonga Shezi (23) matriculated from Scottburgh High School where he enjoyed the subjects Engineering Graphics and Designing, Life Sciences and Geography.

The soccer, rugby and endurance running enthusiast made UKZN his institution of choice, pursuing a Sport Science degree and his Honours in Exercise Science.

'I am very happy and grateful that UKZN is willing to invest in me after recognising my hard work,' he said when he was awarded the Talent Excellence and Equity Acceleration Scholarship.

He commented that he enjoys keeping up to date with the latest research findings and trends in the field of sport and health sciences via perusing of journals and felt that the scholarship will accelerate his academic performance.

Shezi, a level three First Aider, completed an Advanced Strapping course and is a qualified sport massager. His on-going Masters research is entitled 'The effect of submaximal steady state training versus high intensity interval training on heart rate variability'.



Simphiwe Mabaso

Simphiwe Mabaso (23) matriculated in 2011 from Emhlaneni High School in Ladysmith. 'Growing up, we faced a lot of challenges and lacked a lot of things that average people have. It is through my aunt who is a nurse that I am where I am today.'

Mabaso said that from a young age he was inspired by his aunt to become a nurse. 'I've always had a passion for helping people, even when I was doing my undergrad degree. I volunteered to be a mentor for first and second year students. This was my way of giving back.'

Mabaso (23) majored in nursing, anatomy, physiology and facial science in his undergraduate degree at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. 'I read about the scholarship from the emails that we receive from the university, and decided to try my luck'. After receiving the Scholarship, Mabaso said, 'I want to do anything in nursing that has to with education, I have a passion to help people'.

Mabaso would like to motivate other students who come from underprivileged backgrounds to work really hard and pass all of their modules exceptionally well as this gives them a competitive advantage when applying for scholarships.