



MEDIA ALERT

Date: Wednesday, 18 May 2016

R1 MILLION INJECTION FOR UWC'S SRC DRIVEN FUND SET TO BENEFIT FUTURE INNOVATORS

The University of the Western Cape's Ikamva Lethu Future Fund driven by the Student Representative Council (SRC) will receive a R1 million injection from a leading energy company; Bio-Therm. The donation is aimed at creating an enabling environment for students - especially those in the Sciences. Students who struggle financially will now have a better chance at realising their dreams and becoming industry pioneers.

A cheque hand-over ceremony to be officiated by the Minister and the Chief Executive Officer of Bio-Therm Ms Jasandra Nyker will be held as follows:

Venue: University of the Western Cape, School of Public Health

Time: 12h00

Date: Thursday, 19 May 2016

The Minister of Energy Ms Tina Joemat-Pettersson, an alumni of the university, recently extended a clarion call to renewable energy companies; "to aid academic institutions thus harnessing innovation,

Government, Moving South Africa forward

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bolster efforts towards youth employment and economic empowerment.”

In recent years, UWC has become a South African research leader in physics, molecular biology, biochemistry and computer science, - and is playing a significant role in the renewable energy space with projects such as HySA and SAIAMC developing hydrogen-fuelled vehicles and generators.

Bio-Therm Energy has identified UWC as a potential partner for future energy projects which will in turn create many opportunities for deserving students.

UWC's SRC launched the Ikamva Lethu Future Fund campaign in February this year. The campaign aims to assist academically deserving students who are struggling to secure funding to complete their studies. With many registered students at the institution needing some sort of financial assistance, the campaign comes at a time when collective and sustainable solutions are needed.

SRC President Akhona Landu mentions: “ - We understand that student needs transcend simple access to their studies; there are other elements, such as the availability of study resources and access to regular meals, tuition and academic material that also contribute towards creating a healthy and progressive environment for students - this is why our campaign is so relevant as it includes the holistic needs that are aimed for students to succeed.”

UWC Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Student Development and Support Professor Pamela Dube says that as universities we are called upon to continuously assess and seriously evaluate our contribution to the knowledge economy, to the various areas of skills development and preparing students as prospective workforce and as engaged citizens.

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