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F V Z S

Instituut vir Studenteleierskapsontwikkeling
F R E D E R I K V A N Z Y L S L A B B E R T
Institute for Student Leadership Development

*Fostering leadership
for the future*

UNIVERSITEIT • STELLENBOSCH • UNIVERSITY

HOPE
PROJECT

“Africa is beyond bemoaning the past for its problems. The task of undoing that past is on the shoulders of African leaders themselves, with the support of those willing to join in a continental renewal. We have a new generation of leaders who know that Africa must take responsibility for its own destiny, that Africa will uplift itself only by its own efforts in partnership with those who wish her well.”

– Nelson Mandela



UNIVERSITEIT
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UNIVERSITY

FREDERIK VAN ZYL SLABBERT

Institute for Student Leadership Development



Why the need for student leadership development?

Leadership in Africa and elsewhere has come under close scrutiny. Young activists protest against totalitarian and corrupt rulers, poor management of their economies by government and unemployment. They affect change in their societies, and have to rethink democracy and contextual leadership.

The future growth of South Africa and the continent depends on competent, ethical, courageous and principled

leaders who act in the interest of the communities they serve. Poor leadership in companies, organisations, various levels of government and civil society impact on productivity, profitability, investment, resources and quality of life. In South Africa, youth development also is a national priority.

How Stellenbosch University is helping to find solutions

Providing graduates with an excellent academic qualification is no longer sufficient. At Stellenbosch University (SU) we want to develop well-rounded thought-leaders who have broadened their horizons and feed what they have learnt and experienced back into society. On our campuses there are a significant number of various leadership positions, ranging from the Students' Representative Council to leaders in residences, societies, sports teams and student faculty committees. Students are excited to see how their involvement makes a difference and contributes to renewing institutional culture at SU, as well as promoting societal change.

In response to current leadership challenges Stellenbosch University decided to combine its student leaders' enthusiasm and its existing expertise to create a formal leadership development curricula and to establish the Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert (FVZS) Institute for Student Leadership Development.



Why Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert?

The late Frederik van Zyl Slabbert was a South African opposition leader, political analyst, businessman, patriot and activist for social and political change. He was a student leader, residence head, lecturer and Chancellor of Stellenbosch University. He had a formative influence on the course of South African history and will be remembered for his vision to bring together members of the Apartheid regime, Afrikaans-speaking business people and academics, and exiled liberation movements in the historic Dakar meeting in 1987.



He had the courage to speak out against injustice and to remain true to his convictions and principles, although it meant going against the stream, and risking criticism and rejection by fellow Afrikaners. He is a reminder that even during the years of Apartheid South Africa, Stellenbosch University also was a cradle of progressive thinkers and alternative voices.

He lived the principle of critical citizenship and embodies Stellenbosch University's vision to produce students that can serve our growing democracy, and solve the socio-economic challenges facing South Africa and the continent. His formidable intellect, integrity, dedication to

democracy and dialogue, as well as his service to society have inspired the University to establish the FVZS Institute (for Student Leadership Development) to pay homage to his legacy and the ideals he stood for.

How the FVZS Institute for Student Leadership Development will make a difference?

The FVZS Institute for Leadership Development at Stellenbosch University is the first of its kind within higher education in South Africa and offers programmes to develop and strengthen the leadership, as well as personal and graduate attributes of its own students, as well as students from other universities and colleges and school learners. Programmes include engagement with other local institutions and international partners such as Kennesaw State University and Samford University, both in the United States.

The objective of the programmes is to foster ethical leadership and an understanding of students' role as leaders in an African and global context; and to develop leadership, communication, conceptual and management skills.

Currently on offer are advanced courses in mentoring, exchange programmes aimed at developing the ability to see the world through each other's eyes, short courses in community engagement, a school leaders symposium, training students as agents for social change, a combined tennis and life skills programme, a course to develop student entrepreneurs and a course for Matie (nick name for students at Stellenbosch University) leaders to develop generic leadership skills through dialogue.

How this institute ties in with the HOPE Project

Stellenbosch University's HOPE Project is about using science to find solutions for South Africa and Africa's most pressing challenges. In essence, it showcases key research and teaching initiatives that serve society and help build a better future, while developing an academically strong and relevant Stellenbosch University to entrench its tradition of excellence.

These initiatives can be grouped into five focus areas that correspond with the international development agenda: poverty eradication, democracy and human rights, human dignity and health, peace and security, and a sustainable environment and competitive industry.

Promoting student success is one of the key objectives of the HOPE Project. The Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert Institute for Student Leadership Development is one of various initiatives to provide excellent academic support and development opportunities to ensure successful, well-balanced students and graduates that are sought-after in the workplace.

Peer support through mentors is a very important aspect of the University's academic support structures. Research has shown that integration between the academic and social worlds of students deliver the best results. Students from residences and private student wards are grouped together in clusters. Within these clusters mentors are appointed for specific fields of study to assist fellow students. One of the courses offered by the Institute is advanced training for these mentors. On the one hand leadership qualities and skills are being developed, while at the same time other students are assisted to study successfully.

By aiding the development of top quality political, business and civic leadership, the challenges inherent in the international development agenda will also be addressed in the long term.

BREYTEN BREYTENBACH, author and friend of Dr Slabbert, describes his leadership as follows: "...to cross the boundaries between the academy and public life, between knowledge and power and finance and community life, between South Africa and the greater continent; to turn history on its head and regard it critically, from all sides, so that we can be sure that old or new orthodoxies do not calcify our memories and rewrite our dreams. All of this should be underpinned, as your life taught us, by concepts and principles that speak to a healthy and questioning spirit of scepticism, a search for excellence, for concretisation in practice, and for human dignity, underscored by a need to serve, and to love other people as oneself."

– Extract translated from My Kaptein (My Captain)

A tribute written by Breyten Breytenbach on the occasion of Dr Slabbert's retirement from his position as Chancellor of Stellenbosch University.

Broadening horizons

“Leadership development should be an integral part of each student’s university experience, irrespective of whether they are elected to student leader positions or not. Focused leadership development is of value for each and every student, everyone who strives to become a specialist in any field of study, and of course those who aspire to positional leadership. The Institute’s biggest contribution to the development of students probably is to foster leadership that will be contextual and relevant, responsible and dedicated, innovative and visionary in their own communities and within the broader South African society.”

NADIA MARAIS

Recipient of the Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Excellence (2011) and a Mandela Rhodes Scholarship

“Leadership development for students helps to develop one’s full potential; teaches you skills that you can use in the workplace; it teaches you how to interact with people and most importantly, it teaches you to look at the world differently. As positional student leaders, as well as non-positional leaders are being developed, the FVZS Institute drives the message home: every Matie is a leader.”

ANINA BOTHA

Chairperson of the Students’ Representative Council



How you and/or your company can help

An investment in the FVZS Institute is an investment in South Africa's future and the community of nations on the African continent. Funding is required for staff to run programmes, research, international and local exchanges for students, guest lecturers and conferences. The variety of programmes will include community interaction, environmental sustainability and social awareness. University staff can assist to match specific projects with your or your company's interests or objectives.

Gift opportunities

The following exist as **ongoing** gift opportunities:

- Invest in **exchange programmes** or create opportunities for such exchanges to allow South African students to gain international experience.
- Support **women's leadership**. Women face different challenges from men; the FVZS Institute plans to have a specific focus on women in leadership positions to address unique challenges.
- Create a dynamic **space** where students can engage with one another through dialogue, debate and discussion to develop their own thinking and speaking skills.

- Individual **core programmes**. Every programme can be coupled with a donor, whether a company, trust or foundation.
- **Mentor** students. The Institute is looking to supporters to not only make financial contributions, but to also have other interactions with the Institute, to serve as speakers, mentors, coaches and to become role-models for our students.
- Sponsor the FVZS **honorary lecture**, a tremendous opportunity to align one's brand with that of the Institute and Stellenbosch University.

The FVZS Institute started programme implementation at the end of 2010. Building any programme is costly, especially those that involve exchanges and require social capital of high intellectual calibre.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	R AMOUNT
Short courses	360 000
Programmes	520 000
Projects	800 000
Guest speakers	150 000
Staff	1 500 000
Revamping of the building for the FVZS Institute	5 500 000
TOTAL	8 830 000

DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIPS:

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