



# UFS STUDENT BURSARY FUND CAMPAIGN (SBFC)

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*Inspiring excellence. Transforming lives.  
Inspireer uitnemendheid. Verander lewens.*



UNIVERSITY OF THE  
FREE STATE  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE  
VRYSTAAT  
YUNIVESITHI YA  
FREISTATA









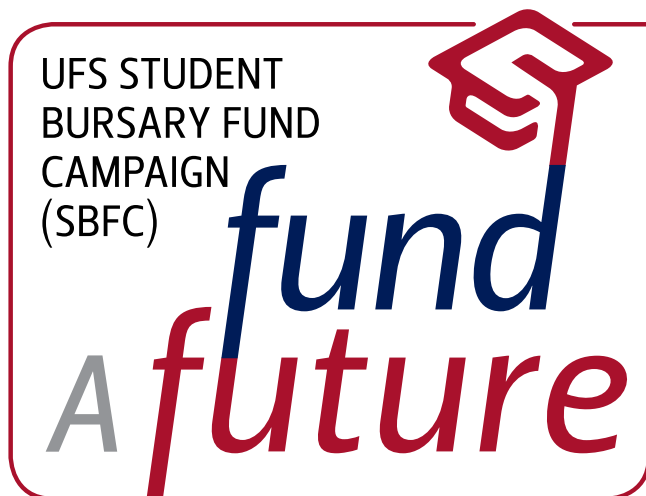
This is a proud product of the Department of Communication and Brand Management.  
Photos | Sonia Small | Kaleidoscope Studios • Design | Andreas Viljoen Design

“Championing the Student Bursary Fund Campaign is not only a professional quest, but a deeply personal one for me.

The university and I cannot do this alone, though.

We need your support and generosity to change the landscape of our youth’s future.”

As student protests surge across our country, South Africa has become acutely aware of the plight of the youth. Although the National Development Plan states that universities play a key role in developing our nation, the cost of higher education hinders most of our youth from transcending their circumstances.



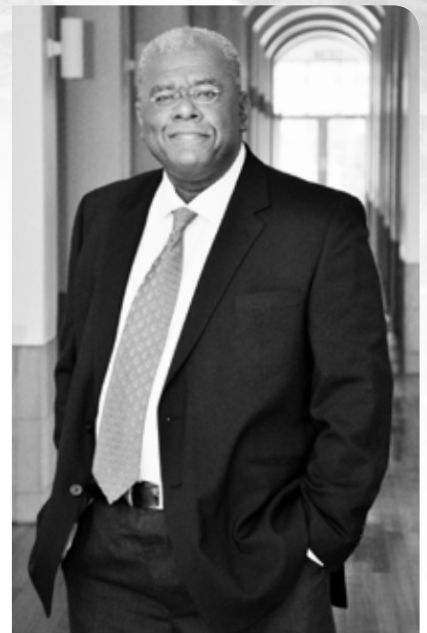
I believe the best way to break the cycle of poverty in South African families is to ensure that talented first-generation students – those students whose parents or siblings did not have the opportunity of studying at a university – gain access to high-quality university degree training. In order to help increase the amount of lives we transform through higher education, the University of the Free State (UFS) has embarked on the Student Bursary Fund Campaign. This campaign aims to raise R100 m to fund talented, deserving students who do not have the financial means to obtain a university degree.



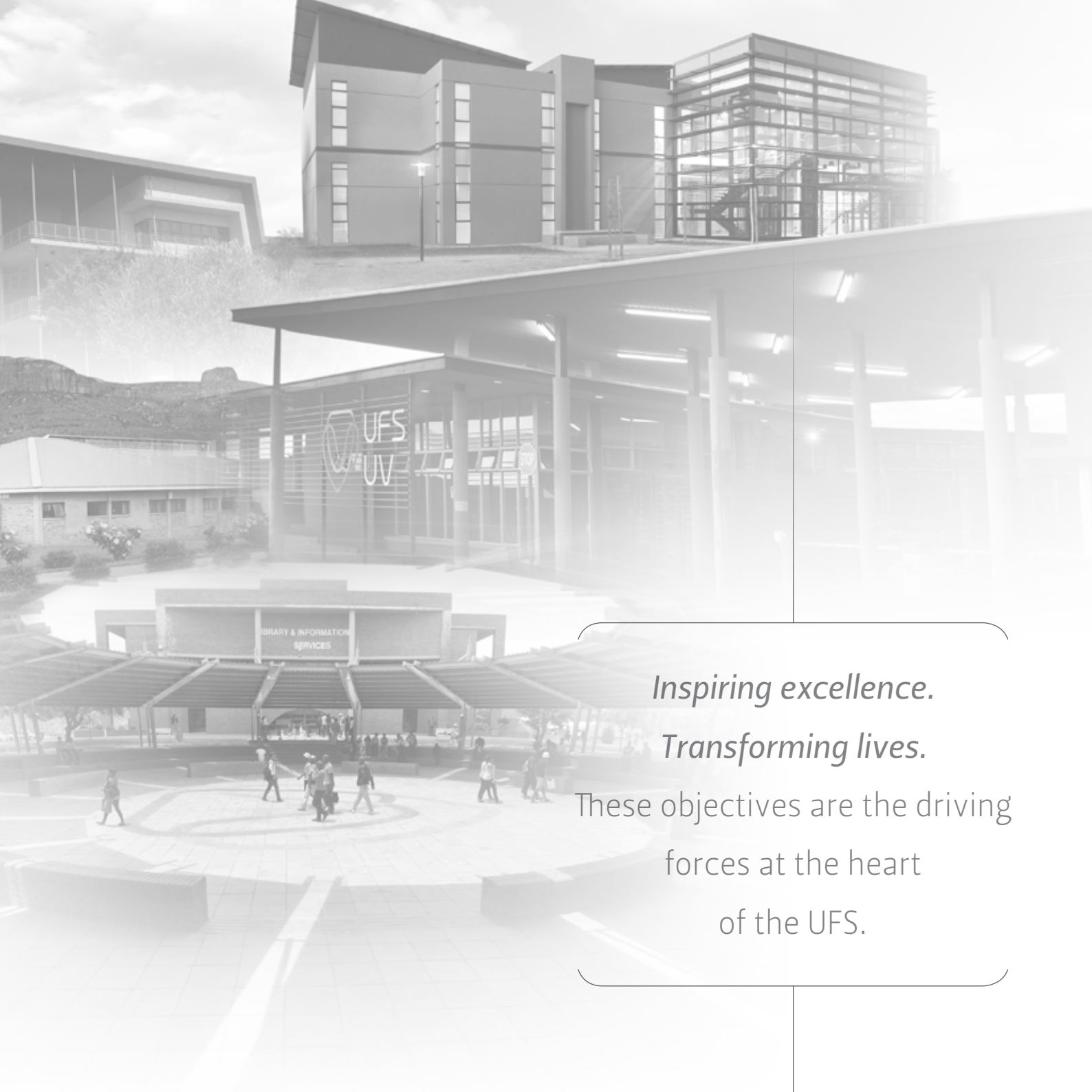
Through this initiative, the UFS will bolster the skills and expertise needed for the 21st century economy, generate relevant research, and prepare ethical and competent leaders to steer South Africa to a prosperous future for all. The Student Bursary Campaign is a manifestation of our commitment of ensuring that young people with talent receive the high level of education needed to drive our beloved country and our people forward to holistic, sustainable growth.

## **PROF JONATHAN JANSEN**

Vice-Chancellor and Rector of the UFS







*Inspiring excellence.*

*Transforming lives.*

These objectives are the driving  
forces at the heart  
of the UFS.

## ABOUT THE UFS

The University of the Free State (UFS) is one of the oldest institutions of higher education in South Africa. It opened its doors in 1904 on the Bloemfontein Campus with a mere six students in the Humanities. Since then, our institution has grown to more than 31 000 students, spread across seven faculties over the Bloemfontein, South, and Qwaqwa Campuses.

Inspiring excellence. Transforming lives. These objectives are the driving forces at the heart of the UFS. Through our Academic and Human Projects, we are a university internationally recognised for human reconciliation and compassion as well as for excellence in academic achievement.

### ACADEMIC PROJECT

One of the reasons for the broader interest in the UFS is our very public commitment to the highest academic standards. This is at the core of our Academic Project. The UFS is a strong academic institution, marked by distinctiveness in teaching, research, and public scholarship. The Academic Project includes rigorous academic entrance qualifications for first-time students, elevated standards for the professoriate, the transformation of undergraduate curricula, the recruitment of world-class professors, and the identification and promotion of next generation professors.

### HUMAN PROJECT

The UFS remains conscious, however, of its responsibility to turn ideas into action, to make research count in the lives of ordinary people, and to develop a spirit of service through scholarship among our students. Through our Human Project, the UFS seeks to connect the teaching and research of the university to the improvement of human lives. Our scholarship of service makes the vital connections between campus and communities through the production and dissemination of knowledge. In these pursuits, the university makes human reconciliation one of the foundations of its mission.

The Student Bursary Fund Campaign  
is therefore an expression of both  
the Academic and Human Projects.



Can your contribution  
make a difference in a  
country – a world –  
filled with need?

The answer resonates in the lives of each student  
that have obtained a degree by means of funding.

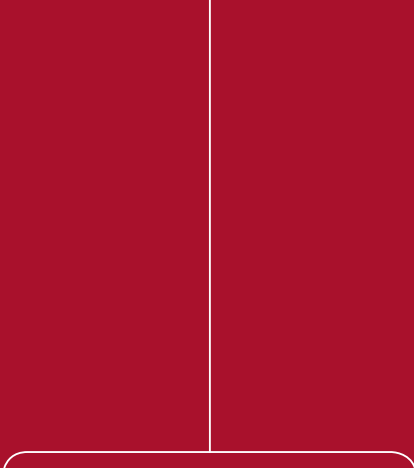
The impact of your financial support reaches far  
beyond monetary value.

It pulls families from poverty.

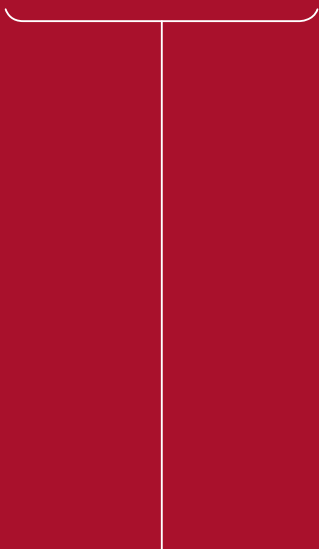
It sends forth experts and visionaries into the world.

It sets in motion a culture of giving.





It irrevocably changes the futures  
of individuals, of communities,  
of our country – as manifested in  
the lives of Nozi, Jean-Pierré  
and Valentino.

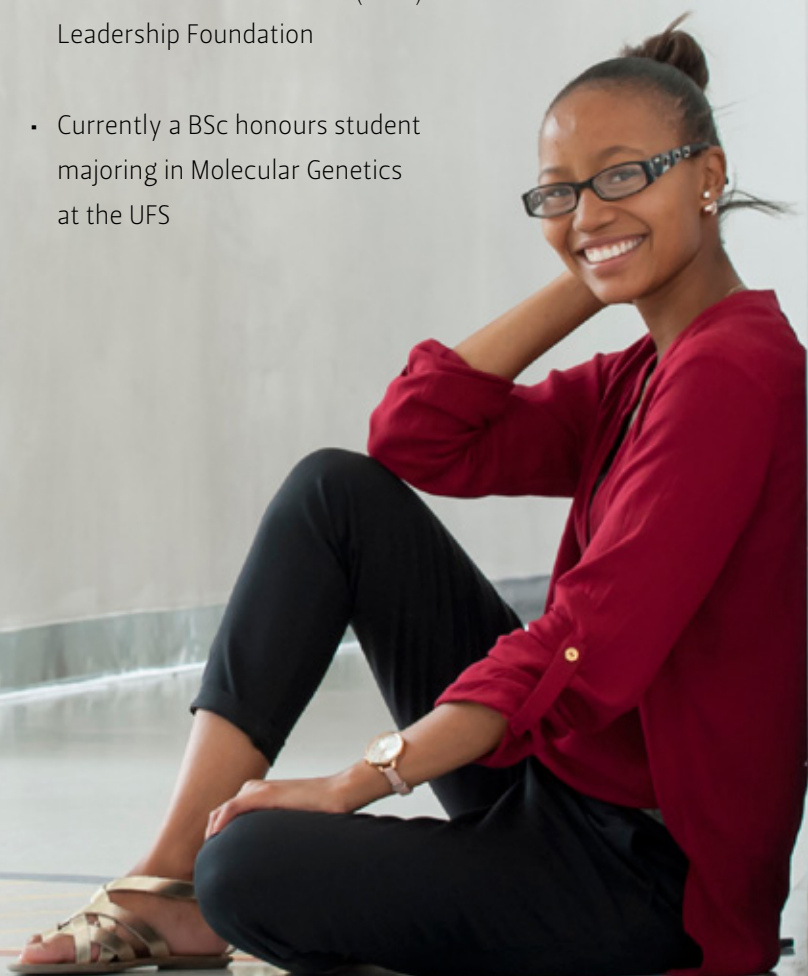



“When you’re  
in a township  
school - as I  
WAS - you wonder  
where you’d go from  
here. I would like to  
show others that  
you don’t have to be  
defined by the school  
you went to, or by your  
background.”



## NOZIMANGA (NOZI) BONJE

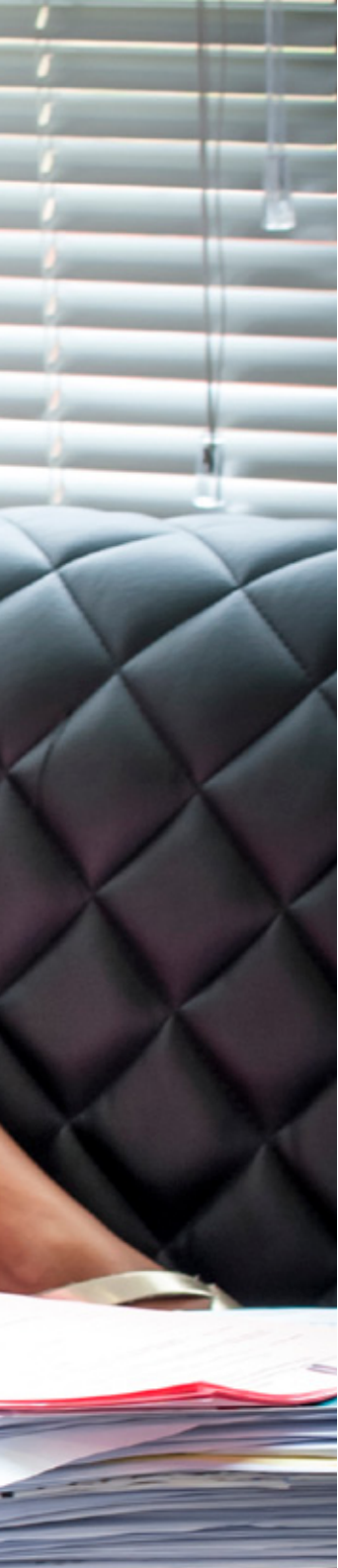
- Completed her BSc degree in Human Molecular Biology in 2015
- Funded by the UFS Rector's bursary and the Make a Difference (MAD) Leadership Foundation
- Currently a BSc honours student majoring in Molecular Genetics at the UFS



A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a red button-down shirt over a dark top, black pants, and glasses, is sitting on a black tufted leather couch. She is holding a pink pen and writing in a pink notebook. There are several other papers and notebooks on the couch next to her. The background shows horizontal window blinds.

“Varsity has given me an  
opportunity to actually discover  
who Nozi is.  
It gave me self-confidence.”





“My biggest dreams are to help people and make a difference. It’s so amazing to see how people are willing to help. Because I received this opportunity, and people helped me, I am so inspired to give back.”









“My friends and I are starting a mentorship programme for high school kids.

We want to show them that they have so much potential, can do so much more and dream big dreams.”

A portrait of Mathabatha (Frank) Maleka, a Black man with a short beard and mustache, wearing a light blue and white striped button-down shirt. He is looking slightly to the right with a gentle smile. The background is a blurred laboratory setting with various equipment and shelves.


## MATHABATHA (FRANK) MALEKA

- Lecturer at the UFS Department of Genetics
- Nozi's current academic supervisor

“I see a lot of potential in Nozi, because she is a very confident person. She has a bright future ahead of her.

In Nozi's third year, she was one of the best students in her class. I can see her achieving big things as a geneticist in future.”



A woman with dark hair in a bun, wearing glasses and a red shirt, is sitting on a red couch. She is smiling and resting her chin on her hand. The background is a brick wall and a white wall. The quote is written in a cursive font on the right side of the image.


*“Happiness  
is an inside  
job.”*

## JEAN-PIERRÉ VAN DER WALT

- Completed his BEd degree in Senior and FET Teaching in 2015
- Funded by NSFAS and Funza Lushaka
- Currently a primary school teacher in English and Sesotho





A photograph of the interior of a car, looking out the driver's side window. The view outside shows a blurred green plant and a light-colored wall. The car's interior, including the steering wheel and dashboard, is visible in the foreground. A quote is overlaid on the image, with decorative lines connecting it to the window and dashboard areas.

"I never imagined that I would have  
the opportunity to study further.

For that to happen, the heavens had to forge a way –  
and it did.

My entire time at university was a divine gift."



“I am not disabled,  
I am differently  
abled.”

My dream is to show that  
even through being differently  
abled, anything is possible.

You hold the key  
in your hands to  
lock or unlock your  
future.”







“University was absolutely a godsend, because it taught Jean-Pierré to stand on his own two feet, to find himself, to become independent.

The gift of university was to bring Jean-Pierré into himself.”



EUGENÉ VAN DER WALT  
Jean-Pierré's grandmother





“My wish is that the children Jean-Pierré teaches, will be inspired to look after one another, to respect one another, and to be kind – the things he stands for.”

“Varsity taught me to stand up for myself, to make my voice heard.

If I did not have the opportunity to attend university, I would have missed my calling in life – to show the world that despite your physical restrictions, you can still make a difference.

The best knockout you can give this boxing match we call life, is to make a success of your life despite your circumstances.”

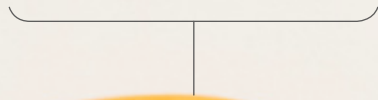






“My grandmother used to tell me that education  
is my eternal bread.

To find a way out of poverty, I had to further my studies.”



A portrait of Valentino Ndaba, a young Black woman, smiling and posing with her arms crossed. She is wearing a white short-sleeved button-down shirt with a small logo on the left chest, dark trousers, a gold watch on her left wrist, and a green and yellow patterned headwrap. The background is a light-colored wall with large, abstract, colorful shapes in orange, yellow, and red.

## VALENTINO NDABA

- Completed her BA Communication Science degree in Media Studies and Journalism in 2015
- Funded by the UFS Rector's bursary and the Rural Education Access Programme (REAP)
- Currently an intern in the UFS Department of Communication and Brand Management








“University has shaped me into a better version of myself.  
I’ve grown intellectually, spiritually, and emotionally.

I learned how to be critical, and not naïve.  
I learned how to push myself daily.”










“The Valentino  
who walked  
through the  
gates of the UFS  
in 2012 has now become  
the person she was  
destined to be.”

A woman with a joyful expression is jumping in the air. She is wearing a white short-sleeved button-down shirt, black pants, and tan shoes. On her head is a green headwrap with a yellow and black pattern. She is positioned in front of a light-colored wall decorated with large, stylized head silhouettes in red, orange, and yellow. A quote is overlaid on the left side of the image, with brackets pointing to the red and orange silhouettes.


"I've encountered many failures, cried  
it off and kept on going."





“My next goals  
are to publish my  
first novel and to  
launch my property  
and investments  
company.”





**T**he initiative outlined in this brochure reveals an agenda for distinctiveness in meeting the demanding needs for human development and academic excellence in a country with a legacy of many problems from our past.

The UFS requires extraordinary support in these challenging fiscal and political times. Through focused and determined leadership, we will continue to build a strong institution in central South Africa; but we cannot do this alone.

**Your support is crucial.**

Each contribution will bring us closer to our goal of R100 m – and to changing the future of our youth.

**Contributions can be deposited into the following account:**

ABSA

Current account number | 157 085 0721

Branch: Business Bank | Bloemfontein

Branch code | 632 005 • Swift Code | ABSAZAJJ

**For enquiries or further information:**

T: +27(0)51 401 3966

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“We are committed to ensure that  
students with talent receive the high level of education needed  
to drive our country and our people forward.”

