

The Leadership College goes to the Free State

AMINA WAGGIE

UNIVERSITY of the Free State (UFS) invited a number of students from The Leadership College (TLC) to their Open Day. TLC is a high school situated in Manenberg and is completely free for academically inclined learners from poverty stricken households.

A selection of ten girls and ten boys consisting of grade 11 and matric learners, among them being both the head boy and head girl along with their deputies, were invited to attend the Open Day, which took place on Saturday, May 13, 2017.

The learners were selected on the basis of their academic achievements and good behaviour. They have worked hard to maintain their good grades in order to make their school, their parents and themselves proud.

Many of the learners come from challenging backgrounds and found this to be a huge opportunity for them to get exposure to the university world as well as an opportunity to travel.

UFS provided transportation for the learners to and from the university.

The trip to Bloemfontein took place over the weekend.

The learners, accompanied by teachers, Mr Isaacs and Ms Davidson, departed on May 12 and returned on May 14.

Upon their arrival at the university, they were met by their principal, Mr Atcha.



Teachers and students of The Leadership College, in Manenberg, Cape Town, who attended the University of the Free State (UFS) Open Day recently, with members of the university staff. Back row (from left): Amaarah Jacobs, Sollegh Isaacs, Kauthar Fortune, Abdul Aziz Arendse, Raees Ismail, Abdul Wagied Waggle, Nathanzo Schultz, Zahid Abbas, Hestia Davidson. Middle row (from left): UFS staff member, Feroza Atcha, Shamsima Pretorius, Munnesah Abrahams, University of Free State Vice-Chancellor, Professor Francis Petersen, TLC Principal, Yousuf Atcha, Nusrat Davids, Nadheerah Oosterwyk, Amaal Hendricks, Saudika Hendricks. Front row (from left): Sameegh Oosterwyk, Yazied Karriem, Shahabodien Ebrahim, Robyn Van Der Vent, Anushka Abrahams and a UFS staff member. Photo AMINA WAGGIE

The learners were taken to the main hall where the rector, Professor Francis Petersen, welcomed them with an inspirational talk. He spoke about the unity of the students at UFS and encouraged the aspirant students to adopt the same sense of caring for fellow students.

'We have a value system which is built on the premise of caring for one another, working with one another and integrate those strengths that each of us bring to the university. We call that the

value of diversity and we focus heavily on that, not only in terms of race, and in terms of gender but also in terms of heritage and in terms of language.

'We should respect the different views of each other and learn from that; and that whole diversity, we try to harness through the approach of inclusivity. So everyone is welcome, every view is welcome. We harness that and we say that if we got that richness of diversity, we can use it to the betterment of the institution,' said

Professor Petersen.

After the speech, the learners were entertained by live performances before going off to learn about their different career interests. They were divided into two groups and taken around the university to the faculties in which the learners were interested.

At the end of the day, the learners were addressed by the rector regarding the current partnership between TLC and UFS, which grants the school a number of bursaries for well achieving learners.

A few of the matric learners commented on their UFS experience:

'This has been a really good experience for me as I had never attended an open day prior to this one,' said Moegamad Sameegh Oosterwyk.

'The UFS was one of my university options so to find out that I was selected to attend their open day was really exciting for me. My parents have always been there to support and motivate me in everything that I do and I believe that they are very proud of me receiving this opportunity,' said Mogaamat Yusuf Mitchell.

Ammaarah Jacobs commented, 'The Leadership College has played a huge role in my personal development, and the teachers have moulded and shaped me into the young woman that I am today, and I am very thankful to them. My ustadha was my greatest inspiration to becoming more spiritually inclined. This journey has been very challenging for me but it has also been a big opportunity and I'm really grateful that I was selected.'

'I did extensive research about the UFS as soon as I found out I was amongst the selected students. One of my career choices is teaching because my dad is a teacher and he is my role model,' said Yazied Karriem.

'We are a family at TLC, and it was an honour to represent my family at the UFS,' concluded Abdul-Aziz Arendse, the head boy of TLC.

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