

R500 000 bursary for chemical engineering students

Four second year students studying for their BSc in chemical engineering at the School of Chemical Engineering at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, have received a bursary of R500 000 to see them through their studies. The students were screened in-house by the university.

The bursary was provided by Durban-based ISEGEN, world-renowned manufacturer of food acidulants, plasticisers.

"We need more chemical engineers in South Africa; this is our contribution towards meeting the demand and at the same time assisting previously disadvantaged students," said Robert Fowlds, managing director of ISEGEN.

He added that the chemical industry in South Africa had a positive history of innovation, import replacement and export generation, and needed support from the private sector to alleviate the skills shortage.

Fowlds offered the students part-time employment for their practical training. When they have obtained their degrees, he will consider offering them full-time employment or assist in finding employment for them within the industry.

Professor Milan Carsky, professor at the School of Chemical Engineering, said the University was most grateful for this bursary as there were many students who could not afford the fees. "The demand for chemical engineers is on the rise as there are very few chemical engineers in Africa, although South Africa is in a fortunate position, with numerous large multinational companies doing research locally."



Seated (left to right), the students: Nosipho Mzobe, Siyabonga Mkhise, Arthur Mdhluli and Mphumleli Mavimbela. Standing, Robert Fowlds, managing director of Isegen (left) and Prof Milan Carsky.

The KZN School of Chemical Engineering is the largest in Africa and has an active post-graduate research programme. The chemical engineering programme is accredited by the Engineering Council of South Africa and internationally under the Washington Accord.