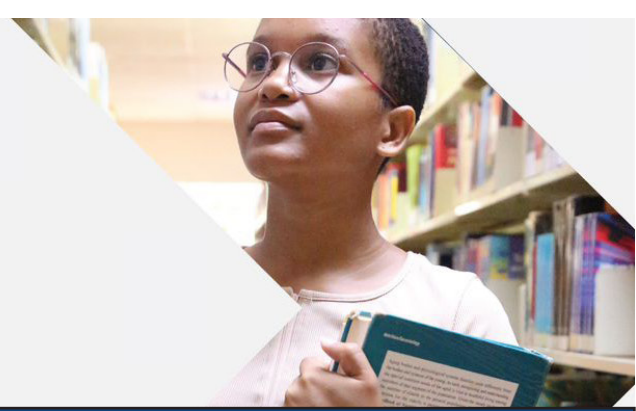




University of Venda
Creating Future Leaders

UNIVEN Weekly e-Newsletter



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UNIVEN Campus Health Bids Farewell to Peer Educators



Group photo of Peer Educators posing with their certificates

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) Campus Health hosted a special farewell event for its dedicated Peer Educators who have been instrumental in promoting health and wellness across the University community. The event celebrated the outstanding contributions of these student leaders, who have worked tirelessly to support their peers through education and advocacy on various health matters. The farewell function took place on Monday, 18 November 2024, at the University Auditorium.



On Photo: Mr Edward Dongola, Head - Campus Health

In his welcome remarks, Mr Edward Dongola, Head: Campus Health warmly welcomed attendees, encouraging them to enjoy the moment and expressing his gratitude for their presence. He congratulated Peer Educators on completing their examinations, acknowledging their efforts and wishing them success. Mr Dongola reflected on the bittersweet nature of saying goodbye to the outgoing Educators. He continued to highlight their training in vital areas like reproductive health, mental health, and gender-based violence, emphasising their role as positive ambassadors. As he acknowledged mutual learning, he encouraged them to use their knowledge to impact their communities and peers meaningfully. Finally, he expressed appreciation to the University and Campus Health for their support.



On Photo: Ms Maggie Hlungwani, HIV Coordinator at Campus Health Clinic

Ms Maggie Hlungwani, HIV Coordinator at Campus Health Clinic, delivered a heartfelt address item, expressing gratitude to Peer Educators and Campus Health workers for their commitment throughout the year. She emphasised the importance of maintaining integrity, being role models, and sharing knowledge about health and wellness, including issues like HIV prevention and general well-being. "The event marks a celebration of your efforts; the distribution of certificates is the recognition of your contributions. I encourage you to continue impacting lives positively, train others, and uphold the values instilled during your service." Said Ms Hlungwani as she rendered her item.



On Photo: Ms Alvina Muhali, Health Promoter

Ms Alvina Muhali reflected on the dedication and impact of Peer Educators, expressing pride and gratitude for their hard work and commitment. She said despite initial doubts, the educators proved themselves through their enthusiasm, energy, and unwavering efforts to promote healthy living. She said they were instrumental in spreading health messages and served as representatives of the campus clinic in places it could not reach. Ms Muhali acknowledged their role as "Health Lights," shining brightly in campaigns and dialogues around campus.



On Photo: Prof Angelina Maphula, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychology

In her message of support, Prof Angelina Maphula, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychology delivered an inspiring message emphasising the importance of living each day with purpose and dedication talking to all Educators. She stressed the value of physical, social, and mental well-being, and urged individuals to care for their health, to choose their friends wisely, and speak up during tough times. Prof Maphula said the success, they assert, stems from discipline, self-belief, and learning from their mistakes. She also highlighted the dangers of self-doubt, blaming others, living in the past, and people-pleasing, instead advocating for self-confidence, resilience, and the courage to pursue personal goals and encouraged the Peer Educators to embrace their unique potential, as well as making wise choices, and build a future defined by their vision, and ended her message with a heartfelt wish for their success and happiness.



On Photo: Ms Zoey Maluleke

Ms Zoey Maluleke, a UNIVEN student who was a Peer Educator and Deputy Project Officer delivered a farewell speech, reflecting on the journey of growth, resilience, and impactful achievements she has shared as a Peer Educator. Ms Maluleke expressed her deep gratitude for the support of her peers and Campus Health staff members; and highlighted

the bonds and lessons formed along the way. She also acknowledged the invaluable contributions of every member, Maluleke encouraged them to carry the spirit of empathy, leadership, and dedication forward.

During the ceremony, certificates of appreciation were handed over to the Peer Educators, recognising their commitment and invaluable service to the campus health initiatives. The event was a memorable occasion, bringing together students, staff, and the department to acknowledge the efforts of those who have made a positive impact on campus well-being.

The Peer Educators have been instrumental around campus in raising awareness on topics such as mental health and wellness, empowering fellow students to make informed decisions about their health.



On Photo: Ms Tshildzi Masia (Professional Nurse) giving vote of thanks

Mr Mfaniseni Mnguni Elected to ACUHO-I SAC Executive Board

Mr Mfaniseni Mnguni has been elected as an Executive Board member of the Association of College and University Housing Officers-International South African Chapter (ACUHO-I SAC) for the 2025-2027 term. This prestigious appointment underscores his longstanding commitment to advancing student well-being and success within South Africa's higher education landscape.



A passionate advocate for student welfare, Mr Mnguni has dedicated much of his career to improving student housing and fostering stronger connections between students and administrative decision-making. His election to the ACUHO-I SAC Executive Board is a significant milestone, not only in his professional journey but also in his continued

efforts to enhance campus life at the University of Venda and beyond.

Through his leadership, Mr Mnguni has substantially contributed to creating safe, inclusive, and supportive environments that enrich students' academic and personal experiences. His work resonates across the institutions he has served, impacting both the immediate university community and the broader field of student housing in Southern Africa.

ACUHO-I SAC is a vital organisation that advocates for excellence in campus housing and residence life services across South Africa. The chapter's work supports student accommodation through collaborative engagement, professional development, and the sharing of best practices. It also plays an essential role in shaping policies and setting standards for university housing across the Southern African region.

Mr Azwidowi Mukheli, Dean of Students at the University of Venda, congratulated Mr Mnguni on this well-deserved achievement, praising his dedication and encouraging other staff members to aspire similar excellence.

Announcement from the Office of the University Registrar

CHANGE OF THE UNIVERSITY'S 2025 OPENING DATE FROM WEDNESDAY, 08 TO MONDAY, 06 JANUARY 2025

Please be advised that the University will open on Monday, 06 January 2025 in line with the approved 2025 University Annual Plan, and not on 08 January 2025 as shown in the 2024 University Annual Plan. The change was necessitated by a need to accommodate some of the activities that should be scheduled in the first quarter.

The change was duly approved by relevant approval structures, including the Executive Management Committee (EMC) and the Senate.

Issued by:

Dr. J.J. Baloyi

University Registrar

If you spot anything out of the ordinary on campus - contact the University Hotline by calling toll free number 0800 212 755 or email: univenhotline@tip-offs.com

Improper conduct includes the following...

1. Financial misconduct,
2. Misuse or misappropriation of University assets,
3. Health and safety risks,
4. Plagiarism,
5. Fraud and corruption.