

NEWS RELEASE

R100m to make education accessible! UP edges closer to three-year fundraising target



Interim Vice Chancellor, Prof Themba Prof Mosia, and UP students inside the VW Beetle that will be raffled to raise funds for the Giving Matters fundraising drive

PRETORIA - The University of Pretoria (UP) has successfully rallied staff, alumni, donors and friends of the university behind its mission to raise R100 million to make education accessible for students in the 'missing middle'. These are students who do not qualify for National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) funding.

UP's Giving Matters campaign was launched in 2022, with the goal of raising R100 million over three years to positively impact the lives of its community members. This initiative aligns with UP's mission to cultivate a culture where individuals are inspired by the motto 'Make today matter' and strive to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others every day.

"While we will always need this kind of funding due to the ongoing socio-economic challenges in our country, we are proud to have changed the lives of more than 407 students and supported various projects at UP through this campaign," said interim UP Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Themba Mosia. "None of this

would have been possible without the support of our donors, including staff, students and alumni, who understand the struggles faced by students striving to transform their lives through education.”

In 2022 the Giving Matters campaign raised R31 million from 504 donors. Of this amount, approximately R9 million was donated by 461 donors (55 organisations and 406 individuals) and was allocated to bursaries and scholarships. The remaining R22 million, from 63 donor organisations, was allocated to various non-bursary projects.

During the campaign's second year in 2023, around R36 million was raised from 834 donors (110 organisations and 724 individuals). Approximately R16 million was earmarked for student bursaries and scholarships, and nearly R20 million from 63 donor organisations was allocated to various non-bursary projects.

This year, as part of efforts to raise awareness and funds, the campaign has launched a raffle for an iconic 1967 Volkswagen (VW) Beetle in perfect working condition. This particular vehicle holds special significance for the University, having once been owned by Professor Casper Rautenbach who served as Vice-Chancellor and Principal at UP from 1948 to 1970. The vehicle was later donated to UP.

So far in 2024 the Giving Matters campaign has raised approximately R15 million from 38 donor organisations, including a major gift from an individual donor. Of this amount, more than R6 million has been allocated to bursaries, with the remaining amount going to various non-bursary projects.

“In summary, the Giving Matters campaign has achieved a remarkable milestone, raising about R82 million, and we are calling on all members of society, locally and internationally, to extend a helping hand this Mandela Month and help us reach our R100 million goal by 22 July, which is UP’s annual Giving Day. We say you can donate as little as R10 because, indeed, ‘Your Giving Matters. Make a Difference. Make an Impact!’”

You can help the Giving Matters campaign reach its target and boost the UP community by donating here: givingday.up.ac.za

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>> [Giving campaign](#)

>> [Donate or buy a raffle ticket](#)

>> [See the VW Beetle](#)

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ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

The University of Pretoria (UP) is one of the largest contact and residential universities in South Africa, with its

administration offices located on its Hatfield Campus in Pretoria. This 115-year-old institution is also one of the largest producers of research in South Africa.

Spread over seven campuses, it has nine faculties and a business school, the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS). It is the only university in the country with a Faculty of Veterinary Science, which is ranked the best in Africa. UP has 120 academic departments and 92 centres and institutes, accommodating more than 56 000 students and offering about 1 100 study programmes. It has the most academic staff with PhDs (70%), NRF-rated researchers (613).

The 2024 Times Higher Education subject rankings placed UP first in South Africa in the fields of Law, Veterinary Science, Accounting and Finance; Agriculture and Forestry and Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) ranked the University among the top five in Africa, as part of their 2024 World University Rankings (WUR). UP was the only South African university featured in the 2023 World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI), falling within in the 101-200 range of innovative universities.

For more information, please go to www.up.ac.za