



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Empowering women to lead

TuksRes

Women in Leadership Academy

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Make today matter



Empowering women to change society

TuksRes Women in Leadership Academy wants to bring positive change to our society by cultivating a new generation of female leaders and change-makers. We believe that every woman can make a difference. We want to grow the leadership potential in young women by helping them to recognise and grow their inherent strength and giving them the tools to effectively lead and bring about change. We follow an exponential growth model by challenging every woman we train to become a role model to others and to train them to realise their potential.

Our Academy was launched in 2015. It was a year in which student protests in South Africa highlighted some of the problems that persist in our society. In times like these, it is even more important that we have capable, responsible and ethical young leaders. We want to empower such leaders.



“ It is amazing to know that the Academy has made cultivating authentic women a priority.

Thuli Nduvane

(3rd year BA Political Studies and International Relations)

Growing a new generation of female leaders at the University of Pretoria

The Leadership Academy currently focuses on training, mentoring and supporting first and second year female students from the University of Pretoria (Tuks). We invite the young ladies from 18 of our residences and day houses to become part of the Academy. We believe that every woman can be a leader and therefore everyone is welcome to participate. We have neither entrance requirements nor entrance fees. This approach has proven to be successful: the Academy started with 300 participants and has grown to 750 participants within one year.

The objectives of the Academy are to:

- lay a solid leadership foundation to promote good decision making by providing leadership training that is relevant to young women and the context they live in
- provide opportunities for young women to practice their leadership skills and train others
- equip and mobilise women to initiate their own community outreach programmes
- create a community of compassionate, responsible and ethical young female leaders who bring positive change to their environment

At the end of each year the participants are given formal recognition for completing the programme. They are encouraged to continue their leadership journey through transferring their new knowledge to their peers. Through sharing our learning we hope to create a ripple effect of empowered young women entering all spheres of society as they graduate.

“ The TuksRes Women in Leadership Academy has provided me with an opportunity of self-evaluation and self-discovery. Through the Academy I have identified and improved upon my personal leadership skills and capabilities, as well as gained insight on what it means to be a great leader, especially when it comes to female leadership. I am truly grateful to the Academy and hope it continues to support young women in their career and personal life goals.

Megan Strauss
(2nd year BA Law)



Events in 2016

Reputation Management
Entrepreneurship
Women in Business
Women and Money
Mentoring



Management Team 2016

Leading by example

Our Academy was started by students and is run by students. The Academy is currently jointly managed by 31 student leaders from diverse backgrounds, representing the diversity of our nation.

These young students lead by example, investing in their own growth, taking up new challenges, new tasks and roles within the Academy. They volunteer their services, organising, teaching and mentoring. These leaders are passionate and dedicated to building a better South Africa for all. They are determined to effect real change in society.

Preparing to lead: empowering young women for a leadership role

We develop leadership skills by offering information sessions, workshops and lectures by guest speakers. At our workshops we discuss topics like gender violence awareness, South African problems and solutions and public speaking. Guest speakers share their knowledge and wisdom and provide an opportunity to discuss issues that face women in our society. The content is developed with the student's context in mind and is designed to be practical and relevant.



“ Enriching and extremely rewarding. It has been great.

Danielle Evert
(2nd year BEd (IP))

The following guest speakers were invited in 2016:

- Advocate Thuli Madonsela (Public Protector): The history of the empowerment of South African Women
- Prof Irma Eloff and Mrs Sally Currin: Leading in education
- Mr Alan Arguile: Your reputation as leader
- Prof Carolina Koornhof: Challenges faced by young women in business
- Khetelo Nkosi, Lehlonolo Moekwena, Navarre Ebersohn: Young entrepreneurs
- Prof Karin van Marle: Feminism in 2016
- Tumi Makgabo: Celebrating students who invest in leadership

2016 Course Content

- Creative innovation and solution-based thinking
- Role models
- Networking
- Branding and public speaking
- Developing a personal leadership style
- Understanding the South African context
- Time and stress management



Advocate Thuli Madonsela, Prof Cheryl de la Rey and Cyan Brown

Leading together: growing networks of leaders

We create an environment where growth is facilitated through mentorship and networking. Each residence/day house has a facilitator. These facilitators are senior students who have been trained in mentorship and leadership development. In this environment the students can build mutually beneficial relationships and networks.

Leadership in action: practicing responsible leadership

Our philosophy is that leadership is service and service is leadership. We therefore emphasise the importance of the context and community we live in. The participants are required to participate in a community outreach project. The students get the opportunity to teach the skills they have acquired to school girls.

For this purpose we have partnered with two high schools in Pretoria, the Tshwane Secondary School and the Pretoria Technical High School. We invite senior girls (Grade 10 to 12) to attend information sessions on relevant issues such as tertiary education and funding, basic health, first aid and hygiene. In 2016, approximately 140 girls attended these sessions.

The two-hour information sessions are held in the afternoon at the schools. The learners are divided into groups of six to ten girls. Volunteers from the Academy present the sessions. In the lively sessions information is presented, questions are asked, topics are debated and myths are challenged.

The volunteers receive the course contents, but it is up to them to decide how to present the information. Some prepare slide shows, others bring pictures and pamphlets and others give a hands-on demonstration. But all ensure that they incorporate a fun element and that activities are engaging.



“ I am amazed by how much I actually learned about myself and who I am as a person. It got me thinking about what I really want to achieve in life and who I want to become. I never thought I would be able to do something like community outreaches, but I really loved it and loved sharing my views with less fortunate girls and helping and encouraging them to become the best they can be.

Danelle Hanekom
(2nd year BCom Supply Chain Management)

Investing in leadership

We are building a healthy society and a strong nation – woman for woman. You can help us change our society by investing in leadership and supporting the TuksRes Leadership Academy. A donation of R300 000 will help us to grow our impact. The funds will be used to invite high-profile guest speakers and supporting our work with school girls. If you are interested in supporting the new generation of leaders or if you need more information about our work, please contact Cyan Brown (director.trwla@gmail.com).

“ The fastest way to change society is to mobilise the women of the world. ”

Charles Malik



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