

Committed to caring enough to make a difference

The University of the Witwatersrand

The University of the Witwatersrand has received a R12.5 million donation from Sibanye Gold Limited towards mining and engineering education.

At a handover ceremony held on 25 July 2014 at the Sibanye Gold Academy on the West Rand, Professor Beatrys Lacquet, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Knowledge, Information and Management at the University of the Witwatersrand, received the donation on behalf of the University from Sibanye Gold Chief Executive Officer Neal Froneman.

Said Lacquet: 'This generous donation provides the opportunity for Wits to offer additional student support with respect to needy and deserving students. It will also enable us to further progress our Digital Mine Research Project, while also affording us the much-needed funds to extend the laboratory facilities in the Richard Ward building for the chemical and metallurgical engineering students.'

'It is commendable to have a company like Sibanye Gold investing in our people, and this partnership will go a long way to assist us in moving forward as we continue to strive to support the South African mining industry in a meaningful way,' she said.

Speaking at the handover, Neal Froneman commented that Sibanye remains resolute that mining should benefit all stakeholders and create a legacy that can endure long after the existing mines have reached the end of their productive lives. 'Our dream is to facilitate the emergence of engineers from communities around our mines such as Bekkersadal, Khutsong, and Matjhabeng, because we know that education will not only give us future employees but will help us break the cycle of poverty and thereby eliminate all the social ills associated with it.'

Sibanye Gold has supported the University in various ways over a number of years. 'Wits is extremely grateful for the sustained contribution made by Sibanye Gold in enabling us to graduate students into the industry. We are committed to South Africa, the industry, and this partnership,' concluded Lacquet.

In the words of Nelson Mandela: 'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world' ... one student at a time.



Seen at the handover ceremony were (left to right): Professor Beatrys Lacquet, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Knowledge, Information and Management at the University of the Witwatersrand; Neal Froneman, CEO of Sibanye Gold; and Professor Fred Cawood, Head of the School of Mining Engineering, University of the Witwatersrand