

ArcelorMittal Science Centre bears its first fruit Part 2

Lesego Kobue, a newly appointed learner technician, who completed his studies on an ArcelorMittal bursary, tells us about his experience at Vaal University of Technology with the assistance of the ArcelorMittal Science Centre.

Portia Kheswa

Who is Lesego?

I am a learner technician, born and bred in Parys, Free State. I started my schooling at North Primary School in Sasolburg and then went to Suncrest High school where I completed my matric. I opted to go through the Mathematics and Science route because of the commitment ArcelorMittal South Africa has in improving performance at schools in the communities they operate in. I was granted the opportunity to attend the ArcelorMittal Science Centre on a weekly basis.

What brought about your interest in Mathematics and Science field, and what kept you going at school?

Mathematics was introduced to me at a very tender age; I grew to love the subject as time progressed because of its complex and stimulating nature. The love for this particular subject made it easy for me to excel in it and wanted to explore it further. Science is filled with a number of laws that leaves you with no option but to want to investigate. My uncle also being a mechanical engineer would motivate me on a

regular basis to explore the Maths and Science world.

Why did you opt to study Engineering?

Because of my keen interest in Maths and Science, engineering became a preferred choice of career. Because of the scarcity and interest of engineering in South Africa, I felt the need to make use of interest by studying Mechanical Engineering through the help of ArcelorMittal South Africa.

How did you obtain the ArcelorMittal bursary?

It was through my interaction and attendance of the Science Centre that I achieved outstanding matric results that qualified me for the bursary. I owe my impressive matric results to the support and assistance I got from the Science Centre. I have been attending the ArcelorMittal Science Centre on a weekly basis since from Grade 10.

How did you find tertiary learning and student life in general (challenges, opportunities etc.?) And where did you complete your studies?

I first of all completed my tertiary learning at the Vaal University of Technology. Tertiary life for me



Lesego Kobue

was pleasant, of course it came with its challenges. Through this experience, I gained an attitude of independence. Studying engineering made me work extra hard to achieve my goal of completing my studies. Being at VUT enhanced my knowledge and experience with practical machinery work that is in line with my course.

How would you encourage your peers to apply for the ArcelorMittal SA bursary scheme and why should they apply?

I already have peers that I enthused, that are part of the ArcelorMittal bursary scheme. With the practical training that I am currently getting from ArcelorMittal Vanderbijlpark Works, I am encouraging them to consider coming here to ArcelorMittal to come work for the steel giants in the world.

So you finished your studies in record time, and now you are here, as a candidate technician for ArcelorMittal Vanderbijlpark Works, how do you feel about that?

I am full of gratitude to God who pulled me through my studies, ArcelorMittal South Africa for granting me this opportunity and

to my parents for their support and guidance up to where I am right now.

Some call it a "life changing experience", in your own words, what would you call this opportunity that ArcelorMittal has offered you?

It is an opportunity wanted by many but received by the hardworking. A lot of people may receive the opportunity but only the passionate ones will appreciate its worth.

With what you have achieved thus far, how are you going to plough back to your community?

With ArcelorMittal being a big contributor to the community and the world as a whole, my contribution to the company gives off to the community.

Who inspired you?

Having grandfathers who were in the mechanical field, gave birth to my love for engineering. My peer (also a trainee here), mentor and uncle inspired me to follow the mechanical engineering as my career.