

17 October 2023

Women In Science, Take A Bow – L'Oréal – UNESCO



Sapokazi Timakwe

(doctorate: electrochemistry/nanomaterials) is one of seven phenomenal women scientists – three doctoral and four post-doctoral – who were honoured at the **2023 L'Oréal – UNESCO For Women in Science National Awards ceremony (FWIS)** on the 12th of October 2023.

"I feel very honoured for this recognition. When I received a phone call from one of the L'Oréal - UNESCO FWIS representative informing me that I am one of the recipients, I had mixed emotions and in disbelief that it was really happening."

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"This year, I obtained funding from Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), a Vice Chancellor's Prestigious Award and currently a part of **the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science South African National Programme**. I was also nominated for James Moir Medal, represented students in Senate Teaching and Learning Committee, as well as a PhD candidate representative in the Department of Chemistry. During my master journey, I received funding from the National Research Foundation (NRF) and CPUT postgraduate bursary, participated in the 70th International Society of Electrochemistry (ISE) conference, where I awarded a prize for best poster presentation. Subsequently, I represented Africa among 25 participants who were selected globally, to partake in the 14th PTA School of Electrochemistry at the University of São Paulo, Brazil. Later, I graduated with Summa Cum Laude with an average of 80% and published three scientific papers.

As an individual who vouches for academic excellence, I took part in Student Support Services, where I served as a peer tutor for three years (2018-2020) in the Department of Chemistry, Teaching Assistant for a year (2021) in the Department of Biotechnology, as well as a Retention Officer in the Department of Chemistry (2022) under Fundani CHED, a centre for student teaching and learning within the Institution.

Currently, I work as an Intern for Chemistry in the AgriFood Technology Station within the Institution."

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