

SPEECH FOR DELIVERY AT FIRST YEAR WELCOMING 2019

- Members of CPUT Management
- Deans of Faculties, Directors of support units
- Academic and Support Staff
- Local SRC
- But most importantly parents, guardians and a special welcome to the class of 2019.

Your attendance here at the First-Year Welcome Ceremony shows your eagerness to begin your higher education path with us and we are proud and grateful that you have chosen CPUT as your academic partner.

In selecting CPUT, you have made a wise choice – this institution is one of South Africa's leading universities of technology. I hope that you will enjoy your experience so much that you will want to return to CPUT for further studies.

This year we received in the region of 40 000 applications for new admissions. This year all of these applicants competed for roughly 9500 first year places. These statistics reflect the public's confidence in CPUT and how desirable the university remains. CPUT is a relatively young institution, having been established as a result of a merger between the former Cape and Peninsula Technikons in 2005. Today CPUT is the largest tertiary institution in the Western Cape region. To date we have seen thousands of students graduate, made history by launching Africa's first and second most powerful nanosatellite, rolled out new qualifications, revamped our campuses and residences and filed a number of exceptional patents.

At CPUT, giving back is an important part of our university culture. Through our Service Learning Programmes we encourage our students to use their skills to make a difference in local communities, while our researchers are urged to find solutions to real-life problems.

CPUT must produce graduates who understand societal needs and respond accordingly. We have always embraced technological innovations and our new mantra of One SMART CPUT underpins all that we do here. Myself and my management team are endlessly revolutionising processes and asking ourselves the critical question “How can CPUT take full advantage of the fourth industrial revolution and the opportunity it presents”. The innovations that will help us lead the charge into this new era will be borne in our high-tech laboratories, research facilities, IT facilities and well-resourced libraries. All of these tools will be at your disposal now. Use them and flourish.

Students also have access to a wide range of academic support services, a notable one being the First-year Experience programme that focuses on holistically supporting all our first year students so that they proceed to their second year of study.

As you begin your educational journey, I want to take this opportunity to encourage each and every one of you to pursue and to achieve academic excellence, here are a few ways you can do that:

- Be accountable and responsible
- Work hard and smart from day one, work ahead of the lecturer, read materials before it is discussed in class. CPUT assesses students continuously, every assessment counts; you can't wait for year end to make up for lost time.
- Invest in textbooks, a good artisan must have the right tools
- Attend classes regularly. It is widely known that there is a high correlation between good attendance and results.
- Be punctual, whether for lectures or exams.
- Make full use of all the academic development services that the university provides
- Constantly seek opportunities for personal, social and intercultural growth.

- Challenge your mind, exceed your own limitations and discover new ideas and knowledge.
- Read extensively, you must know and understand the world around you.
- Have a balanced life – enjoy student life to the fullest, but at all times be responsible. You have the privilege of studying in one of the most beautiful provinces in the country and our campuses are situated all over it. Our Wellington campus is home to breath-taking scenery and some of the most historically significant buildings in the region. Explore it and appreciate your surroundings. In Cape Town and Bellville you are a short walk or drive from the best beaches and tourist activities. Stay in touch with your relevant Student Development officer and take part in trips planned throughout the year, adventures like these are subsidised by the institution and will help you see places you would not visit on your own otherwise.

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In conclusion

Parents: hold us accountable, show an interest in the progress of your child, and contact us if you have any concerns. Together, we can achieve the best for your sons and daughters. Thank you once again for attending and entrusting your sons and daughters with us.

Students: You have fought hard for your place to study here. There are many who stand outside the gates of learning who wish that they could trade places with you. So in a real sense you are amongst a chosen few. The opportunity to study comes with great responsibility- do your best.

We wish you a successful year ahead and welcome to CPUT!

Thank You

