

# Vryheid Student Celebrates Academic Excellence on Youth Day

**S**INOTHANDO Sibiya (20), has every reason to celebrate Youth Day. She was awarded a Special Bursary, of R13 000.00 by the Ellerine Holdings Trust Fund (EHTF) for her second year of study towards a National Diploma in Architectural Technology at Durban University of Technology.

Sibiya says that she is serious about her studies because she believes in making the most out of the opportunities that tertiary education provides - having passed all her exams and this year already achieving two distinctions at 86%.

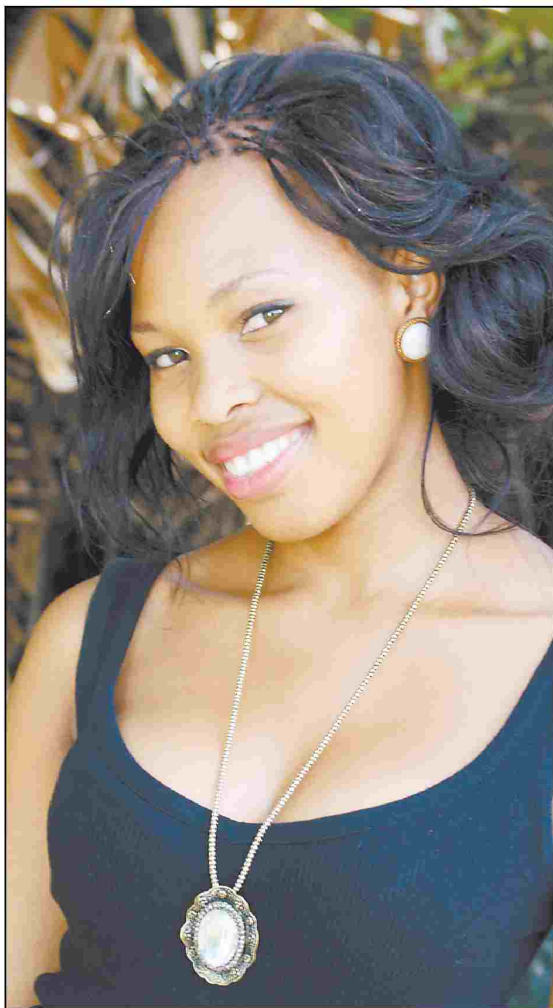
Advice for other students is to work hard at school and get the best grades possible as well as to enrol early for University or University of Technology to help ensure that you get accepted for your first study choice.

"I'm shaping my future through my studies," said Sibiya. "In my opinion, too many youth blame the lack of finance for the reason they don't enrol for tertiary studies, when in fact, it is poor grades that really hamper their progress".

This enthusiastic student plans to have her own architectural business after she has finished her studies and gained some practical workplace experience.

Sibiya is grateful to the EHTF as well as her Mother Daphney, a Sales Consultant at Savells Vryheid, who has made personal sacrifices to enable her to further her studies.

The EHTF administers bursaries and donations on behalf of Ellerine Holdings Limited (EHL) which has more than 1 000 retail furniture outlets, in Southern Africa, with well-known brands such as Ellerines, TownTalk, FurnCity, Beares, Furniture City, Geen & Richards, Dial a Bed, Chateau D'Ax and Wetherlys. In the past 18 years EHL, through the EHTF, has invested over 20 million Rand in bursaries for academically-deserving students who are dependents of employees at these stores. Students who have been provided with financial assistance have graduated with Degrees and National Diplomas for a wide range of careers



including Accounting, Architecture, Education, Electrical Engineering, Information Technology, Law, Logistics, Public Relations and Retail Management.

"Trustees will continue to invest in young achievers through tertiary education that helps to lay the foundations for successful careers," said Graham Adie, Chairman of the EHTF. "And, we trust that the students will continue to achieve as a result of this investment." - *Corporate Social Investment Manager, Ellerine Holdings Trust Fund*