



PPS HELPS TO ADDRESS SKILLS SHORTAGE WITH R150,000 IN BURSARIES

PPS, the leading South African specialist financial services provider to graduate professionals, has awarded bursaries totaling R150,000 to ten outstanding South African students as part of an ongoing effort to provide much-needed financial assistance to university students across the country.

According to Mike Jackson, Chief Executive at PPS, the bursaries play an important role in addressing South Africa's skills shortages. "Given the severe skills constraints we are currently experiencing in South Africa in a range of professions, it is essential that talented students, who through no fault of their own may not be able to afford education, are given the same opportunities as their peers."

The Department for Public Works recently announced it was launching a drive to bring retired engineers and artisans back into service after finding that the average current age of an artisan is 55 years. The Minister of Higher Education also suggested that 70,000 artisans need to be trained within the next five years.

The PPS Chairman's Bursaries Awards are granted to ten promising students across the country who are in real financial need. "Education is a vital tool in the creation of a fair and democratic society and we are privileged to be in a position to provide financial assistance to outstanding students through these bursaries."

For the current academic year, PPS awarded a total of ten bursaries worth R15,000 each. These bursaries are paid directly to the university where the recipient is studying and are administered by the university to cover university fees and textbook costs.

This year's bursaries have been awarded to learners across the country including the University of the Free State, University of Pretoria, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Stellenbosch University, University of the Western Cape and University of the

Witwatersrand. The students also study across a range of disciplines including Linguistics, Law, Pharmacology, Veterinary Science and Microbiology.

Jackson says the PPS Bursaries Awards, which have been running for over a decade, have assisted many outstanding students with notable academic records to further their studies, towards graduation and beyond. "It is extremely gratifying to be part of a process that not only rewards promising young talent in South Africa but also ensures that those students who otherwise may not be able to continue their studies can do so without fear of financial constraint."

"We are confident that these promising young learners will go on to contribute to the improvement of our society and make great strides in whichever career they choose," says Jackson.