



R95,000 DONATION ASSISTS UWC STUDENTS WITH WORKPLACE SKILLS

Students at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) are set to gain invaluable workplace skills training after the university received a donation of R94,956 from PPS, the specialist financial services provider to graduate professionals, to refurbish a training area for students that will also contribute towards the roll-out of a campus-wide information literacy programme.

Gerhard Joubert, Head of Group Marketing and Stakeholder Relations at PPS, says the refurbishment of a training area in the university library will significantly increase the number of students who can use the facility at any one time. “The UWC’s library only had one training lab with 35 workstations, which was in extremely high demand. As a result, the university created an additional training area. However, this utilised old furniture and equipment and could only accommodate 15 students at one time.”

He says the money provided by PPS has been used to update the training area to provide additional work stations, custom-built work surfaces, additional network cabling and chairs to ensure that more students are able to benefit from using the facility.

Allison Fullard, Deputy Director at the UWC library, says the refurbished training area will assist hundreds of students with their learning. “This area has now been transformed into a modern, comfortable training facility, creating a conducive environment for the effective transfer of information literacy skills, thereby enhancing UWC graduate employability and lifelong learning.

She says the information literacy programme being rolled out by the UWC helps learners gain a number of key skills that would not otherwise be taught on traditional academic courses. “Information literacy skills enable students to navigate a broad range of information sources to investigate new topics, discern and select information and organise content from authoritative sources to deepen their understanding, helping graduates to become problem solvers in the workplace.”

“This was a vital donation as faculty librarians have now become an essential component of the teaching and learning team at UWC. From 2011, librarians will partner with lecturers to build students’ information literacy through hands-on training for practical assignments and this new training area will play a huge role in ensuring this happens effectively,” says Fullard.