



Special Edition Dedicated To Former SRC Graduates | 18 May 2026

From Student Leadership to Graduation Glory: UNIVEN Former SRC Leaders Rise as Future Changemakers

As the University of Venda prepares to confer qualifications during its 2026 Autumn Graduation ceremonies from 19 to 22 May, a remarkable group of former Student Representative Council (SRC) leaders is emerging as powerful examples of how the institution continues to produce graduates who are locally relevant and globally competitive. Their journeys reflect far more than academic achievement; they embody resilience, leadership, innovation, service, and an unwavering commitment to transforming communities through education.

From law, education, public administration, and social work to information technology, youth development, and science, these graduates have balanced academics with leadership responsibilities while overcoming financial hardships, personal struggles, and societal barriers. Together, they represent a generation of young leaders shaped by the University of Venda's vision of producing graduates capable of making a meaningful impact both nationally and internationally.

Graduation Features, One Unstoppable Vision: The Story of Maduwa Ngelekanyo Stanley



Ngelekanyo Stanley Maduwa continues to distinguish himself as one of the University of Venda's most inspiring young leaders. Having already been featured during previous graduation seasons, Maduwa will once again take center stage on 19 May 2026 when he receives his Master of Public Administration degree during the First Morning Session. His journey reflects consistency, growth, and an unwavering commitment to public service and leadership excellence.

Since enrolling at the university in 2021, Maduwa has built an impressive leadership and professional profile. He served as Faculty Project Officer, SRC Secretary-General, and University Council member during the 2023/24 term while also contributing professionally within the Department of Marketing, Branding and Communication. Beyond leadership, he mentored students as a tutor and expanded his academic footprint through published research on capital markets in South Africa, proving his commitment to scholarship, governance, and institutional development.

From Mphego to Digital Excellence: The Inspiring Journey of Mario Macheque



Born and raised in the rural village of Mphego in Thohoyandou, Mario Macheque's journey

reflects determination and the transformative power of education. After completing Mechanical Engineering studies at Shingwedzi TVET College, he pursued his passion for technology at the University of Venda, where he successfully completed an Honours degree in Business Information Systems, set to be conferred during the 2026 Autumn Graduation ceremonies.

Mario also made his mark through student leadership as SRC Minister of Education during the 2023/24 academic year, advocating for academic success and student development. Despite balancing leadership, academics, and financial challenges, he remained resilient and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Information Technology at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, inspiring many young people from rural communities to dream beyond their circumstances.

Making History Through Education: Mukovhe Maedza's Inspiring Story



Mukovhe Maedza's academic journey has become a historic milestone at the University of Venda. On 22 May 2026, during the morning graduation session, he will officially become the first person in the university's history to

graduate with a master's degree in Sociology of Education, a remarkable achievement rooted in perseverance, sacrifice, and community support.

An educator at Ratshikwekwete Secondary School, Mukovhe combined demanding professional responsibilities with intensive academic research focusing on the educational challenges faced by learners from child-headed households. Beyond academics, he also distinguished himself through leadership and sport, serving within student sporting structures and contributing to the growth of university football initiatives. His story stands as a testament to educational transformation and community upliftment.

Against the Odds: The Inspiring Journey of Nolwazi Nobuntle Ndlovu



At just 24 years old, Nolwazi Nobuntle Ndlovu's story reflects resilience, determination, and leadership. Originally from Shabalala Village in Mpumalanga, she completed a Bachelor of Arts in Language Practice in 2024 before enrolling for a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) in 2025, positioning herself within the teaching profession.

Beyond academics, Nolwazi served as a Block Representative before becoming Secretary of the Housing Representative Council during the 2023/24 term. Faced with serious financial challenges during her PGCE studies, she refused to give up and started small businesses to support herself financially. Her journey continues to inspire many young women who dare to pursue success despite difficult circumstances.

From the Streets of Vryheid to Academic Excellence: The Inspiring Journey of Sanele Masondo



Raised in Vryheid, KwaZulu-Natal, Sanele Masondo has emerged as a young leader whose journey demonstrates courage, resilience, and self-belief. After changing her qualification pathway during her studies, she successfully completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2025 and will officially receive her PGCE qualification during the Autumn Graduation ceremony on 22 May 2026.

Sanele also served as SRC Minister of Information during the 2023/24 term, balancing academics and leadership responsibilities with discipline and determination. Currently pursuing an Honours degree in Curriculum Studies, she credits her success to the unwavering support of her family, whose belief in her carried her through every challenge.

From Student Activism to Community Transformation: The Leadership Journey of Gudani Lloyd Tshamano



Gudani Lloyd Tshamano has built a reputation as a passionate youth leader, social activist, and community development practitioner. After completing his Bachelor of Social Work degree in 2023, he will officially receive his Bachelor of Sociology Honours degree during the second session of the Autumn Graduation ceremony on 21 May 2026.

Before becoming SRC President during the 2022/23 term and serving on the University Council, Tshamano developed his leadership skills through student activism and governance structures. Today, he works as a Development Facilitator at WBD Zenzele Development, where he continues empowering communities through sustainable development initiatives and social support programmes, demonstrating leadership rooted in service to humanity.

Breaking Boundaries Through Science: The Inspiring Journey of Thendo Pretty Mphemphu



Thendo Pretty Mphemphu's academic journey reflects resilience, adaptability, and scientific ambition. After initially enrolling in a degree programme in Physics and Chemistry in 2021, she courageously redirected her academic path and successfully pursued a Biochemistry and Microbiology.

Despite financial and emotional hardships, Thendo remained committed to excellence while serving as SRC Minister of Sports, Religion, Arts and Culture during the 2023/24 term. Her academic journey has now progressed to the prestigious University of Cape Town, where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Medical Sciences Honours degree, proof that University of Venda graduates can compete confidently on national and global platforms.

Western Village to Graduation Excellence: The Inspiring Journey of Mutepe Lufuno



Born and raised in Western Village under the Makhado Local Municipality, Lufuno Mutepe has combined education, entrepreneurship, and leadership to build an inspiring journey of empowerment and service. He will officially receive his Bachelor of Arts in Youth Development degree during the Autumn Graduation ceremonies.

Mutepe served as Secretary of the Housing Representative Council before becoming SRC Deputy Secretary-General, contributing meaningfully to student governance and leadership. Beyond campus, he demonstrated entrepreneurial excellence through business ventures and as the founder of Mutepe Properties. Passionate about youth empowerment, he also partnered with Standard Bank to support educational initiatives aimed at uplifting students and communities.

From Botlokwa to the Legal Fraternity: Motlatso Makhura's Inspiring Rise



At only 22 years old, Motlatso Makhura is already establishing herself as a future legal professional and young scholar committed to academic excellence. She will officially graduate with a Bachelor of Laws degree during the 2026 Autumn Graduation ceremonies after beginning her studies at the University of Venda in 2022.

Makhura balanced the demanding nature of legal studies with active student leadership, serving as SRC Parliament member and later as SRC Minister of Education during the 2024/25 term. Demonstrating exceptional ambition, she is currently pursuing a Master of Laws in Private and Mercantile Law and is enrolled at LSSA-LEAD Venda Law School, reflecting her determination to excel within the legal fraternity.

The Rise of a Future Legal Titan: How Mashudu Elekanyani Nedzanani Is Building a Legacy



Mashudu Elekanyani Nedzanani continues to emerge as one of the University of Venda's promising young voices in criminal justice and legal advocacy. Having previously graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice, he will officially receive his Honours degree on 19 May 2026 during the second graduation session.

Currently pursuing a master's degree in Criminal Justice while simultaneously studying towards an LLB with the University of South Africa, Mashudu's vision is rooted in justice, equality, and advocacy for vulnerable communities. Beyond academics, he served in student governance structures, including the Housing Representative Council and as SRC Minister of Gender and People Living with Disabilities. Today, he also contributes meaningfully to society through his work as a paralegal in Musina.

Against All Odds: The Inspiring Rise of Bongani Kholwane Shabangu



Raised by a single mother who worked tirelessly to support six children, Bongani Kholwane Shabangu's journey reflects sacrifice, perseverance, and the life-changing power of education. After initially struggling to access higher education due to financial challenges, he enrolled at the University of Venda in 2018 to study Mathematics and Applied Mathematics.

Having completed his degree in 2024, Bongani pursued a PGCE qualification driven by his passion for education and community upliftment. Beyond academics, he served within the SRC during the 2022/23 term and currently leads a non-governmental organisation offering extra Mathematics lessons to disadvantaged learners. His story powerfully

demonstrates how education can become a weapon against poverty and inequality.

From Overcoming Failure to Becoming a Voice for Justice: The Journey of Chavhani Mulweli



Mulweli Chavhani's story is one of resilience, redemption, and determination. Raised in the rural community of Vuwani Tshino in Limpopo, he overcame academic setbacks and limited resources to pursue his dream of becoming a legal professional. His Bachelor of Laws degree will officially be conferred during the Autumn Graduation ceremonies on 19 May 2026. Currently pursuing a Master of Laws specialising in Human Rights, Chavhani also serves as a Legal Intern at the University of Venda Law Clinic, assisting students and communities with access to justice. His leadership journey includes serving within student political structures, the Black Lawyers Association Student Chapter, and SRC Parliament. Today, he stands as an inspiring example of how perseverance can transform adversity into purpose-driven success.

As these former SRC leaders prepare to cross the graduation stage, their stories collectively affirm the University of Venda's growing reputation as a breeding ground for transformative leadership, academic excellence, and social impact. Their journeys reflect young people who have not only succeeded academically but also embraced leadership, service, innovation, and community development as part of their purpose. From rural villages and township streets to lecture halls, laboratories, courtrooms, classrooms, and boardrooms, these graduates embody the University of Venda's vision of producing future leaders who are capable of competing globally while remaining deeply committed to uplifting their communities. Their achievements serve as a powerful inspiration to current and future generations that, with resilience, education, and determination, no dream is beyond reach.