



University of Venda  
Creating Future Leaders

# UNIVEN Weekly e-Newsletter



Special Edition Dedicated To Current SRC Gradaunds | 15 May 2026

## UNIVEN SRC Leaders Graduate with Purpose, Passion and Power

As the University of Venda prepares for its 2026 Autumn Graduation ceremonies, a remarkable group of current Student Representative Council (SRC) leaders is preparing to cross the graduation stage, not only as graduates but also as living proof that leadership and academic excellence can coexist. From law and political sciences to biochemistry, information systems, and humanities, these student leaders have balanced demanding leadership responsibilities with academic perseverance, demonstrating resilience, discipline, and an unwavering commitment to

shaping a better future.

Their journeys reflect the University of Venda's continued commitment to producing future leaders who are academically grounded, socially conscious, and determined to transform society. Despite facing financial hardships, emotional struggles, leadership pressure, and personal loss, these graduates remained focused on their qualifications while serving the student community with distinction. Their stories stand as powerful inspiration to young people across South Africa and beyond.

## Against the Odds: How Mandlakayise Ndimande Turned Leadership, Hardship and Persistence into Academic Victory



Current SRC Secretary General and University Council member Mr Mandlakayise Ndimande will officially graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry and Microbiology during the 2026 Autumn Graduation ceremonies. Originally from Matsulu in Mpumalanga, his university journey evolved beyond personal ambition into a mission of student service, advocacy, and leadership. Over the years, he rose through various leadership structures, serving as Media and Communications Officer, SRC Minister of Legal, Policies and Constitutional Affairs, and eventually SRC Secretary General.

Balancing academics with the intense pressures of student leadership proved challenging, delaying his academic completion. However, Mandlakayise refused to surrender to setbacks. His graduation represents perseverance, sacrifice, and servant leadership, reinforcing his belief that student leaders must lead by example. His story continues to inspire many students to remain committed to education despite obstacles.

### **From SRC Leadership to Legal Excellence: Tshinyani Zwonaka's Inspiring Graduation Journey**



Mr Zwonaka Tshinyani, the current SRC Minister of Health, Safety and Security, will graduate with an LLB degree after completing the qualification

in record time between 2022 and 2025. Raised in Ngwenani ya ha Mapholi in Venda, Limpopo, Mr Tshinyani transformed early academic struggles into motivation for success, eventually becoming a respected student leader and law scholar.

Throughout his university journey, he served as a class representative, law tutor, Housing Representative Council member, and deputy chairperson within faculty leadership structures before joining the SRC Cabinet. Despite financial and personal challenges, he remained disciplined and focused. Now pursuing an LLM in Human Rights Law, Mr Tshinyani's journey reflects resilience, academic excellence, and a strong commitment to justice and constitutionalism.

### **A Degree Earned Through Purpose, Leadership and Perseverance: The Journey of Mr Vhudihawe Citizen Masithi**



SRC Minister of Gender and People Living with Disabilities, Mr Vhudihawe Citizen Masithi, is set to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree after successfully balancing academics with demanding leadership and activism responsibilities. Since enrolling at UNIVEN in 2023, he quickly established himself as a disciplined student leader committed to

inclusivity, equality, and student empowerment. Beyond serving in the SRC, Mr Masithi also held leadership roles within the Housing Representative Council and currently serves as Chairperson of the Young Communist League of South Africa (YCLSA) UNIVEN Branch. Despite the pressures of leadership and activism, he completed his degree in record time and is now pursuing a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), dedicating his achievement to his late father.

## **Rooted in Purpose, Rising Through Resilience**



Ms Phophi Nicole Mudumela, the current SRC Minister of Facilities and Maintenance, will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry and Microbiology under the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture. Raised in Ha-Maelula Village under Makhado Local Municipality, Ms Mudumela's academic journey was shaped by resilience, responsibility, and determination from a young age. Her university journey was marked by both personal loss and financial hardship, including funding complications that nearly interrupted her studies. Despite these challenges, she persevered and continued serving students

through leadership roles as a Peer Educator, Chairperson of Peer Helpers, and SRC Minister. Now pursuing Honours studies in Biochemistry, her story stands as a powerful example of faith, perseverance, and courage.

## **Rising Through Pressure: The Inspiring Journey of Ms Maboa Promise**



Ms Promise Maboa, Deputy Chairperson of the Postgraduate Committee, will graduate with a BCom Honours degree in Business Information Systems after completing her studies with Distinction/Cum Laude. Originally from Ga-Mampuru in Steelpoort, Sekhukhune, Maboa's journey reflects discipline, resilience, and determination under pressure.

After initially struggling to adapt to the demands of Information Technology studies, she developed a passion for cybersecurity and business intelligence analysis. While pursuing postgraduate studies, she worked as an intern at the University of Venda, balancing research, leadership, and work. She is currently pursuing a

Master of Commerce degree while continuing to inspire students through leadership roles within SASUF and postgraduate structures.

### **Kone Adeliade Sibara: A Story of Academic Excellence and Fearless Leadership**



Ms Kone Adeliade Sibara, current Secretary of the Postgraduate Committee, continues to distinguish herself as a fearless young leader committed to academic excellence and student empowerment. Originally from Tshakhuma village, Ms Sibara completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies in record time before progressing to Honours and now a Master's degree in Political Science.

Despite arriving at university without funding, she remained focused and resilient, eventually securing financial support and excelling academically. Alongside her studies, she served as Miss UNIVEN Plus Size, Housing Block Representative, Economics tutor, and now postgraduate leader within the SRC structure. Her growing influence also extends internationally

through her role as Deputy Secretary of the South African BRICS Youth Association.

### **From Hardship to Hope: The Inspiring Leadership and Academic Journey of Mr Rotondwa Khalushi**



Current Chairperson of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture (FSEA), Mr Rotondwa Khalushi, has become a respected voice among students for his commitment to academic excellence, leadership, and service. Raised in Makungwi village in Nzhelele under difficult financial circumstances, Mr Khalushi viewed education as a pathway towards changing his family's future.

Since enrolling at UNIVEN in 2022 to study Computer Science and Mathematics before advancing to Applied Mathematics Honours, he has consistently supported fellow students through tutoring, mentorship, and leadership. His journey reflects resilience, discipline, and the belief that one's background should never determine one's destiny.

## Small in Stature, Mighty in Purpose: The Story of Ms Nsovo Zoëy Maluleke



Ms Nsovo Zoëy Maluleke, Secretary of the Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law SRC Council, will graduate with an LLB degree completed in record time. Originally from Jerome Village in Malamulele and raised in Atteridgeville, Pretoria West[GS2.1], Nsovo transformed rejection and disappointment into motivation after initially being denied admission into other programmes due to her Mathematics and Physics results.

Her breakthrough came after winning a Moot Court competition in 2022, igniting her passion for law and leadership. She went on to serve in multiple leadership structures, including Peer Educators, SAWLAsc UNIVEN, Housing Representative Council, BLAsc UNIVEN, and the faculty SRC council. Currently pursuing a Master of Laws degree, Ms Maluleke's story is one of confidence, determination, and fearless ambition.

## From Pain to Purpose: The Inspiring Journey of Shaleen Shabangu



Ms Shaleen Shabangu's graduation journey reflects extraordinary resilience, courage, and personal growth. Having completed all requirements for her Bachelor of Arts degree, she will officially graduate during the 2026 Autumn Graduation ceremonies while continuing with BA Honours studies in English Literature. Born in Gauteng and raised in Mpumalanga, Shaleen's path to university was delayed after she failed to secure admission immediately after matric.

When she finally enrolled at UNIVEN in 2023, her transition into university life was deeply challenging, including experiences of bullying and emotional distress that affected her confidence and academic performance. However, she refused to let those experiences define her future. Through determination and self-belief, she rebuilt herself into a stronger individual and now serves as SRCC Project Officer, supporting student development and sporting activities on campus.

The University of Venda proudly celebrates these exceptional SRC leaders whose achievements reflect the institution's commitment to producing graduates who excel both academically and in leadership. Their ability to balance demanding leadership responsibilities with academic success stands as a testament to their resilience, discipline, and unwavering commitment to personal growth and student development. As they prepare to graduate during the 2026 Autumn Graduation ceremonies, the University takes great pride in their accomplishments and in the powerful example they continue to set for current and future generations of student leaders.