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**11 December 2015**

## **SHAWCO SHINE applications now open**

SHAWCO SHINE, a project of the Students' Health and Welfare Centres Organisation of the University of Cape Town (UCT), aims to provide learners with an opportunity to improve their academic results through a quality teaching experience in small intimate classes.

Considering that many learners find it difficult to excel at school for a number of reasons – including big classes, a lack of motivation and poor teaching methods, SHAWCO SHINE serves to minimise the impact of these factors that might lead to poor academic results and negatively affect one's potential to enter the tertiary sector.

Every Saturday, learners from grades 10-12 attend classes at UCT administered by teachers who specialise in either Mathematics, Accounting, Physical Science, English Home Language or Life Sciences.

These teachers go through a thorough vetting process and are continuously evaluated and monitored on performance to ensure that registered learners receive the best tuition. In addition to subject classes, learners are also exposed to career workshops and life skills.

Ilyaas Abrahams, a former Groote Schuur High School pupil, credits the SHAWCO SHINE project for his academic success.

"Before SHAWCO I kept my goals for my studies pretty low (realistic for me at the time) but now I even got accepted into medicine at UCT! I could say without a doubt that the programme has helped me tremendously. I went from a 77% average in grade 10 to an 86% average in my final exam with six subject distinctions."

Besides academic assistance, the SHINE project and Saturday School – a parallel initiative of the SHINE project – aims to motivate learners to succeed in life. Saturday School pupil, Namusuma Kapenda of Wynberg Secondary School, said the programme has helped her socially as well.

"SHAWCO has not just helped me academically but also socially in that it arranged career workshops and life skills interventions to help us with our decisions regarding what to

study and where and how to get support and financial help. It has given me extra support and has helped those who were struggling plus those who were excelling.”

At the end of 2014, SHINE’s matric pass rate was 93% – with 73% of its learners furthering their studies at a tertiary institution.

Admission to the SHAWCO SHINE programme is now open and is on a first come first served basis. A pre requisite to join the SHAWCO SHINE program is that the learner should take Mathematics (compulsory). Fees per subject range from R250-R275 per Saturday (4.5 hours of tuition) depending on the number of subjects taken.

In addition, there is a once off registration and workbook fee. The fees are used to cover the costs of the programme as well as to subsidise the Saturday School programme which provides tuition to learners from disadvantaged schools who do not have access to SHAWCO SHINE due to a variety of socio-economic factors.

For more information on the SHAWCO SHINE project please visit the [website](#). Alternatively please contact Cheryl Patel at [cheryl.patel@uct.ac.za](mailto:cheryl.patel@uct.ac.za) /021 650 7709 or Jenna de Jager at [jenna.dejager@uct.ac.za](mailto:jenna.dejager@uct.ac.za) / 021 404 7751.

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***Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department***

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