

Fourth Industrial Revolution must be owned by Africa and girls must be at the forefront



“The time to own our graduate success has come”, said MUT alum, Sandile Mahlaba, Microsoft Provincial Executive for KZN, who graduated from MUT’s Faculty of Management Sciences. Mahlaba is passionate about MUT and owes his success to MUT. “Not only did MUT give me a qualification; it opened many doors for me. As early as in my second year, I was already globetrotting, carrying the MUT flag on MUT ticket. It was thus befitting for me to recommend to my fellow organisers that MUT

be also considered as one of the hosts for this national community project. We ran a boot camp for Grade 11 girls by partnering with wide-ranging stakeholders, with the Kgalema Montlante Foundation being a lead donor. “Although the girls came from surrounding schools, what was important to them was to see MUT being at the forefront of this,” said Mahlaba. “We want girls to start thinking about the role they could play in the future and make them dream big,” he said. The University’s Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Enoch Duma Malaza, during the opening ceremony of the AI competition, reiterated the MUT Strategy 2020-2025, which puts communities at the centre of development. “What Mahlaba is doing is at the very core of the vision we have set for ourselves - to be a transforming, equitable, sustainable and academically excellent University of Technology, anchored in its communities.”

Mahlaba’s forward thinking is on the same page as MUT Strategy 2020-2025. This drive to create opportunities for the local community is at the heart of MUT Strategy 2020-2025. Globally, universities are turning to their communities and finding ways of uplifting those communities and this is also the essence of what Minister Blade Nzimande is driving at. “The time for the private sector to rise and become strategic partners is here. It can no longer be only government tackling challenges. Solutions are right at the private sector,” Dr Nzimande said at the Anchor Strategy meeting in Washington DC

