

MEDIA RELEASE

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EDHE Shining a Spotlight on Studentpreneurs across South Africa

The Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE) programme will be launching the second iteration of the national Entrepreneurship Intersarsity 2020 competition on 21 January 2020 at Protea Hotel OR Tambo. The competition is open to all 26 public universities affiliated to Universities South Africa.

The Entrepreneurship Intersarsity 2020 competition identifies, recognises and supports student entrepreneurship at public universities. The purpose of this competition is to identify top student entrepreneurs at each university, showcase their businesses and invite investment into this cohort of start-ups. In the process, universities will then have the opportunity to demonstrate their entrepreneurial talent and how they support and grow the next generation of business leaders.

Student entrepreneurs are invited to submit their innovative ideas or existing businesses in one of five categories and stand a chance to win a prize at the annual EDHE Awards. This year a new category focusing on Women in Manufacturing has been added. The five categories are:

- **Category 1:** Business Ideas
- **Category 2:** Existing Business – Tech
- **Category 3:** Existing Business – Social Impact
- **Category 4:** Existing Business – General
- **Category 5:** Women in Manufacturing

A total of 1155 valid entries were received in 2019, with representation from all 26 of the public universities. The first round entailed students pitching their entries for competing at their respective institutions and winners from this round were then selected to represent their universities at the regional rounds, which yielded 28 finalists. These finalists had the opportunity to pitch for a R10 000 prize with the overall winner receiving R50 000 at the national finals, which were held in Gauteng on Wednesday 18 September 2019 at the Southern Sun OR Tambo

International Hotel. Four winners were selected by a panel of experienced judges made up of chief executive officers and venture capitalists.

The overall winner of the Entrepreneurship Intersivity 2019 was Mvelo Hlope from the University of Cape Town, who won the award for Studentpreneur of the year in addition to winning in the category for Existing Social Impact Business. He walked away with prize money to the value of R60 000. Penang Shirindza of Rhodes University won the Innovative Business Idea category, Denislav Marinov of University of Cape Town won the Existing Tech Business award and Musa Maluleka from Wits University won the Existing General Business category. Each of these category winners took home R10 000 in prize money.

Entries for the Entrepreneurship Intersivity will open on 3 February 2020.

The EDHE programme is a response of the Department Higher Education and Training (DHET) to the high levels of unemployment in South Africa. Implemented through a partnership with Universities South Africa (USAf), this programme exists to support student entrepreneurship and to develop entrepreneurial academia and entrepreneurial universities. A vibrant entrepreneurship ecosystem at universities in South Africa encourages students to consider and pursue entrepreneurship as a career path. The EDHE Intersivity competition seeks to encourage student entrepreneurs to earn an income while learning.

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