



# News just in!

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## **SAMUN alumni wins national youth development competition to become SA's "One Day Leader"**

***"Right now we couldn't be prouder!"***

This is the sentiment of James Urdang, executive director of Education Africa and operations director Linda Gould, following the announcement that Lesley Masibi has been declared the winner of the SABC1 youth development show "One Day Leader". The announcement was made on Tuesday evening. The objective of the competition (which attracted over 3000 applicants) was to identify and develop tomorrow's leaders by focusing on critical social and economic issues facing the nation.

Lesley has a long relationship with Education Africa and in particular, our SAMUN programme.

We first met Lesley in 2004 when he was a Grade 11 pupil at Gatepele High School from Wolmaranstadt. Lesley was part of the debating team which was made up two learners from his school as well as two learners from St Joseph CBC. The team won the provincial debate and they soon found themselves competing at the National competition against the country's top high school debaters.

Lesley displayed such debating skills at this event that he was selected to travel with the SAMUN team to New York to compete in an international Model United Nations Debating Competition – an experience which he says opened his eyes and changed his life. On his return from New York, he was so driven and motivated to further his studies that he applied (and won) a scholarship to study at university. He is currently at Witwatersrand University where he is doing his honours degree in Chemical Engineering.

But his experience with SAMUN made him determined to become involved with community development, so, while being a full time student, he has also set aside time to train and mentor hundreds of high school children who participate in Education Africa's SAMUN conferences. His contribution has been invaluable and it is wonderful to see how passionate he is about sharing his experiences and knowledge. "Lesley has a wonderful rapport with the school children that he mentors. He has become a valuable team member at SAMUN," says Gould.

So what will this bright young leader do next? As a result of winning the competition he has been offered a 1-year internship at the office of the Chairperson of the National Youth Development Agency, which is based at the Union Buildings in Pretoria. "This means so much to me as I'll be able to be involved and have some influence on youth development programs – it's a very exciting opportunity. I hope to start in January next year, as I am currently still busy with my studies at Wits."

At Education Africa we are not only hugely proud of Lesley's achievements, but we are also delighted that in spite of his busy schedule, he will continue to put aside some time to continue mentoring at SAMUN. "I owe so much of what I have achieved to the experience I gained from SAMUN," says Lesley. "This is a project that is very close to my heart."