



Bank reaches out students

Professor Anesh Singh, vice-chancellor Dr Albert van Jaarsveld, SRC president Noxolo Bhengu, Absa's Sazini Mojapelo and Bonita Field with the dummy cheque on Thursday.

By ZIMBILI VILAKAZI

THE R10 million Absa CEO Scholarship Fund goes a long way towards helping financially needy students.

The bank handed over a cheque at the University of KwaZulu-Natal on Thursday.

SRC president Noxolo Bhengu said on Sunday the donation was a huge help.

"The province has the highest percentage of students who come from poor families. They have little money available to pay university costs.

"This substantial funding will make a huge difference. We are grateful to the bank," said Noxolo.

She added that they will sit down with management and discuss how the money will be spent.

Dr Albert van Jaarsveld, vice-chancellor and principal at UKZN, said they will use a combination of academic performance and financial need to identify qualifying students.

"The need to find alternative sources of funding to support students is ever increasing at South African institutions.

"We have intensified our fundraising efforts to help as many students as possible. We are extremely grateful to the bank for heeding our call for assistance to fund students who have no access to other means of funding."

Bonita Field, head of business banking in KZN, said a university education unlocks opportunities that can change people's lives.

"This is an expression of our shared growth commitment to help realise the province's potential and contribute to its long term economic growth.

"This investment has been made possible by the hard work and dedication of colleagues in our business.

"I'm proud of their commitment," she said.